

Daily Reflection

Daily Update – Wednesday, 7th October

Good Morning Everyone,

Today's Reflection is from Rosemary Pearson – Thank you Rosemary!

Luke 11:1-4

Luke's version of "The Lord's prayer" is shorter than the one in Matthew Chapter 6. Jesus did not intend us to say this by rote as many of us have learned to do, with the result that over-familiarity has lost its impact on our lives. It is intended instead as a framework for prayer. Considering it section by section is well worth doing.

The first thing to note is its priority. Many of our prayers tend to be little more than a shopping list of things we want for ourselves or those around us!

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Jesus began with WHO He was praying to.....

Father

Throughout His earthly life Jesus continually resorted to His Heavenly Father, often rising very early to pray. He was completely dependent on Him and did nothing without Him. Even His final prayer on the cross was "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit".

The fact that Jesus has taught us to begin our prayers with "Father" as He did is mind blowing! This privilege, of course, applies only to those who have committed their lives fully to Him.

The fundamental relationship with God as Father is vitally important to our understanding of the Christian life. No wonder Jesus put it at the beginning.

Not all earthly fathers are good, and even those who are, fail at some point. Because of this the concept of God as Father is difficult for some people. If you are in a place where this is painful, or if you have never taken the step of asking God to be Your Heavenly Father I am sure that Matt or one of the leadership team would happily pray with you.

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Hallowed be Your Name

God is Holy – His Name is to be honoured. Although God is our Father we should not be casual in our relationship with Him.

In ancient times a person's name described aspects of their character. In the Old Testament God has many names. To treat His Name irreverently is wrong and dangerous (Ex. 20:7).

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Your Kingdom Come

Knowing God as a loving and caring Father draws us into wanting His Kingdom to come on this earth, and for other people to join us in His Kingdom. Naturally, we want to see His rule over this dark and troubled world.

Jesus taught His disciples (Matthew 6:33) to seek **first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness. It puts everything else in its right perspective as we trust Him with our daily worries.

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Give us Each Day our daily bread

The phrase "living from hand to mouth" tends to refer in our society to a time of financial struggle. At present many people are living with great anxiety about how they will care for their families because of job uncertainty.

None of us of course knows what lies ahead, but our loving Heavenly Father, who knows all our needs and wants what is best for us, has all the resources at His disposal. He wants us to depend on His daily provision.

The book of Exodus tells us how the Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness where God fed them manna on a daily basis, right up to the day they entered the Promised Land. They didn't have freezers full of food, and their shoes and clothes didn't wear out either! (Deut. 29:5).

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Forgive us our sins

Sadly, sin is a fact of life which cannot be ignored. We are dependent on God's mercy on a daily basis, because we are so prone to stray from His pathway. 1 John 1:9 says "If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

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For we forgive everyone indebted to us

It is hard to forgive when someone has hurt us – but God's merciful attitude to our own sin gives us the ability to be merciful to one another and live together on this planet.

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Do not bring us to the time of trial (temptation)

Matthew chapter 4 tells us how Jesus faced extreme temptation in the wilderness and came out victorious, without resorting to the sinful antics that we get up to in times of testing.

We are often much weaker than we realise and it is important to learn where our pressure points are when temptation is the strongest. We need God's help in avoiding situations that would put us under undue strain, but if those situations cannot be avoided, we should go into them prayerfully. St. Paul (Eph. 6:10ff) was

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very aware of the spiritual battle and described in a graphic way the kind of armour Christians should be wearing in our daily struggles.

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So then - much more could be said about this profound teaching, but these short verses give us all that we need for godly living. I hope this study has helped us see these words in a new light.

The chapter goes on to expand some of its meaning – but that is for another day!

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Psalm 117

“Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol Him, all you peoples!

For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord!” (NRSV Version)

Remember...



News

APCM

The St. John's APCM will take place via Zoom on Thursday 15th October. Contact admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com for the link details.

If you are considering standing for the PCC and would like more information, contact Gill Prosser at gill.prosser6@gmail.com.

The forms, financial accounts, minutes will be sent out this week.

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Christmas Boxes – Southbourne Love your Neighbour

This year we are planning to distribute Christmas boxes to 60 families who we delivered to during lockdown. Below is a list of items we need. If you feel you would like to contribute, (it doesn't matter how big or small) could you please contact Jane Inglis at Jane@inglis3.org.

Bistro
Cellotape
Christmas pudding
Christmas cake
Christmas cards
Christmas crackers
Christmas decorations
Christmas lights
Christmas hats/antlers
Chocolate
Cranberry sauce
Custard powder
Fizz drinks no alcohol
Biscuits
Stuffing
Tinsel
Wrapping paper.

Copyright Overview Training

You are invited to attend our Copyright Overview training session on Thursday 8th October, at 8pm. This training is essential for all those who use images, video and audio on behalf of the church in any form, including posters, service content, programmes, online materials and recordings.

The training will take place on Zoom and last around half an hour. Please contact the office for the connection details.

Sunday Services in October

Please email me at admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com if you would like to come to any services in October.

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The cut-off date for booking for each week's service is the Thursday before.

If you are unable to attend a Sunday service that you have booked, email the admin address of phone 01243 375576.

Have you got flu-like symptoms? Please don't attend Church.

Humour

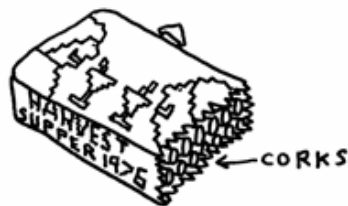
KNEELERS

Q. WHAT IS INSIDE THEM?

A. THE FILLING DEPENDS UPON WHO HAS MADE THE KNEELER. THESE KNEELERS HAVE BEEN CUT OPEN SO THAT YOU CAN SEE WHAT IS INSIDE:



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



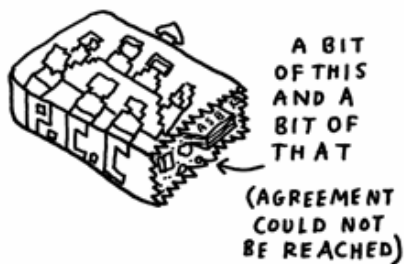
THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE



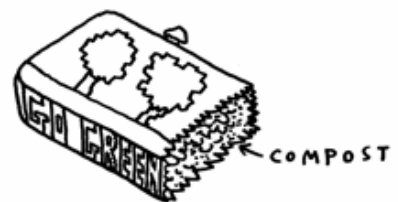
THE VICAR



THE BELLRINGERS



THE P.C.C.



THE 'ENVIRONMENT' SUBCOMMITTEE