

THIS WEEKS REFLECTION

Holy Week has always been for me a time of reflection, thinking about the supreme sacrifice of Jesus for each one of us. As a boy, I sang in Bach's magnificent and beautiful St Matthew Passion. It covers a huge range of emotions within Matthew's account - the historical remembrance of the Passover which was made to mean so much more by its fulfilment in Jesus; the love poured out when He was anointed with precious oil; the prediction of betrayal; Peter's denial and of course the crucifixion itself. It would be all so gloomy if it were not for the anticipation of the joy and triumph of the resurrection! We see in the hedgerows the emergence of the bright new foliage and flowers banishing winter with the uplifting promise of summer. Let us show to others not a gloomy life but the glory of a resurrection life shining to all those we meet - and leaving them uplifted, for, 'He Is Risen' and lives in and through each one of us! Jon Burnett St John's Aust

PRAYERS

Loving Father we pray at this time with Easter just a few days away that many people will be touched and be open to talk about Jesus and that Christians will be given opportunities to give their testimonies of how Jesus moved into their lives and brought them a new life of hope and joy. We pray that many will take that step to accept Jesus into their lives.

We pray that many will be drawn to come to church and that all churches will warmly welcome all people who come into church, especially strangers, and that they will be touched by the content of the service and become regular attenders.

Loving Father when we look into the news and media there is not a clear picture of what is really happening in the world and our country but it is clear that most people are not living according to how You created us to live. We pray that You will guide Christians to live a life led by You which will influence all of society and transform our communities.

We pray that world leaders will have wisdom and lead with fairness and not have favourites. We pray for wisdom for the governments that they will know how to deal with the Chinese and Russian leaders, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin that World War 3 will be prevented.

Loving Father we pray for the poor, the sick and the lonely. We pray that the poor will be noticed and all their needs and a little more will be given to them. We pray for the sick that they will be healed by the NHS or by Christians using Your Spiritual gift. We pray for the lonely that their friends relatives or neighbours will see and give time to visit them, invite them to their home and take them out to the church and to social clubs that they will feel a valuable part of the community.

Loving Father we pray for children, we pray that all people they have time with, their parents, friends and neighbours and those who run clubs they attend, those who lead church groups; Open the Book, Messy Church and Prayer Spaces, and their teachers will give them good Relationship, Health and Sexual Education, that they will grow up to be healthy responsible adults and many will become Christians.

Loving Father we pray for our Church leaders who have an extra workload with the ill health of Sue PM and Becky Cox moving on. We pray that new people with gifting will soon be provided and a tolerable workload will be established. And Loving Father we pray that where we can provide time to help in different things you will prompt us to use the gifts and abilities You have given us.

Loving Father we pray for people who are unwell, including Sue P.M, we pray that Your healing hand will be upon them and restore their health. We pray for those who have passed on that You will be with their friends and relatives and enable them to cope with the loss.

Please pray for those who are sick especially David Shaw, Georgie Edwards, Elizabeth and Sue PM.

As churches together we meet for prayer every morning, Monday to Friday, from 8.30 am on ZOOM. You can join by clicking the link on the welcome page on our website: www.revsrural.com.

God Bless
Nick Barnard

MONDAY MOVIE CLUB - 1 st April

Everyone is welcome in St Mary's, Olveston to the Monday Movie Club. It is held on the first Monday of every month (the Summer excluded) and there is no entry fee or membership needed. Refreshments, tea, coffee, wine and beer are available. The Monday Movie Club is a true community event.

This month we are showing an English/Irish film made just last year. A group of ladies living in a poor part of Dublin dream of going to Lourdes but in reality, theirs is a hard, tough life.

Nevertheless their local priest somehow "manages" to let 4 of these lucky ladies win an all expenses paid trip to Lourdes in a raffle.

Imagine the feelings these girls experience on travelling to the French Pyrenees when none of them has ever left Dublin, let alone Ireland, before – the least of these being INDEPENDENCE.

However, sour memories and deep wounds are exposed when they meet up with a lady who left Dublin for the States decades earlier.

But whatever it is that they thought they were looking for, becomes clearer as each day progresses.

This is a film full of comedy, love and friendship.

Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30pm.

Under the terms of our licensing agreement we are not permitted to name the film. May

MURDER MYSTERY – CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENING

You are invited to a Murder Mystery Dinner Party on either Friday 10th May, or Saturday 11th May at Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall.

Doors open at 7pm for drinks and nibbles. On stage, the acted murder mystery starts at 7.30pm prompt, before a delicious two-course dinner is served. A cash bar will be open throughout the evening.

We hope you might agree to organise a table of 6-8 people who will comprise your team. So please have a think about which family, friends and neighbours you would like to invite.

You will sit with your team throughout the evening; have the meal together, and attempt to solve the mystery together. But there will be plenty of opportunity to talk with the cast, with the other teams and to work with them (or maybe against them!) to see who can solve the mystery and take home the top prize!

There is no dress code – just come as you are. However, do talk with your friends as some tables may decide to come dressed in black-tie evening dress.

To reserve your table, please complete the booking form and email it to

Paul.harrod@gmail.com

OR print off and post/hand deliver to EITHER Churchill Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Olveston, OR 12 Orchard Rise, Olveston.

We do require payment in advance to reserve your table as we anticipate both nights will sell out relatively quickly.

If at all possible, please pay in advance and then get reimbursed by collecting the money from your team mates afterwards or on the night.

Like last year, all profits from the two evenings will be donated to the Aanandit Charity which provides a large number of projects to support underprivileged children in Nepal. This is a charity supported by St Mary's and St Helen's churches.

cut out and post to either of the addresses above OR email to paul.harrod@gmail.com

Please reserve one table for the Murder Mystery Evening on

Friday 10th May

Saturday 11th May

(please state which evening you would like a table for)

Price is £20 per person, which includes nibbles, a two-course dinner and a chance to watch, and then solve, a specially written Murder Mystery play.

Tables/Teams are 6-8 people.

NAME OF HOST _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF GUESTS, INCLUDING YOU _____

Vegetarian options, suitable for vegans, will be provided. The chefs can provide a full list of ingredients on the night. A minimum deposit of £100 – for five people is required. If you add to that number you can pay extra on the night. We trust you!

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS

(for a pre-event reminder and update) _____

Please state the TOTAL amount paid _____

Please transfer the money to St Mary's PCC Olveston (who will pass on all proceeds to the charity)

Sort-code 40-52-40 (CAF Bank)

Acc No. 00029936

REFERENCE - Nepal charity (please make sure you include this)

OR: make one cheque payable to 'St Mary's PCC Olveston' and write on the back 'Nepal charity'