

Thought for the week:

### On Forgiveness

*'To err is human, but to forgive, divine'. This well-known phrase I believe captures two of the greatest mysteries of the Christian life: that humankind, being what it is, what we are, can rebel against God; and the doctrine that God, being what it is, can forgive us.*

*And this idea also captures the heart of the fifth petition of the Lord's prayer: 'And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'. And in a way the greatest prayer of the Christian Faith, is deceptively simple. It's very easy to pass over it and to think, 'I know what this means: unless we forgive others, we won't be forgiven.' But when we do this, I honestly believe we're kind of mistakenly turning it into a bargain, or into a sort of contract: if I do this, this happens to me.*

*And this is a real misunderstanding in my opinion, because being a child of God is not about bargaining or entering into a business contract. It is about authentic love and participating in a covenant. And the difference between the two is enormous. A business contract is a legal agreement which outlines how services are offered and paid for. Complete strangers can make contracts with each other - and can fulfill these contracts perfectly without ever knowing the other party. But a covenant is a sacred and intimate union in which those involved give themselves to one another: body, soul, heart, and mind. If we break a contract, we can expect legal repercussions; but if we break a covenant, we damage a relationship.*

*Put another way, and in the context of Lent, it is the difference between doing something out of obligation and doing it out of love.*

*Seen in this light, the petition takes on a different meaning. Far more than a balancing act, forgiveness is the all about the reconciliation of the children of God, that's us, with our Heavenly Father and with each other. Forgiveness is at the heart of the new covenant.*

## THE PARISH OF CATHAYS

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### PCC Secretary:

Rhiannon Williams  
*Please contact Rev'd Caroline to arrange baptisms, marriages, banns, and Holy Communion for the sick and housebound. Please let Caroline know if anyone wishes to be prayed for, is ill or in hospital or would welcome a visit.*

*And I believe that forgiveness is always a gift from God; without His grace, we cannot forgive. This is something we hear in those beautiful words from Psalm 103: 'Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him'. And thank Goodness, or thank God for that.*

*And so forgiveness is a part of something much bigger than itself: it's part of love. And we're all in the forgiveness business; and this kind of business is sacred and intimate and all about real relationship - not about a tit-for-tat kind of bargain! - it's all about authentic love.*

*With love from Caroline x x x*

Readings for next Sunday, Lent 3, are:  
Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Psalm 19:7-14; John 2:13-22

## THE PARISH OF CATHAYS

THE CHURCHES OF  
**ST. ANDREW & ST. TEILO,**  
WOODVILLE RD.  
**ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS,**  
WHITCHURCH RD.

February 25th 2018

Lent 2

Year B

*Everyone is welcome here. In St. Michael's you will find a Sunday School, at which all young children are very welcome. There is a family service on the first Sunday of each month. In St. Teilo's we have a choir in university term-time, and the church has traditionally been a place of worship for students, as well as the wider community. If you are new to the church please make yourself known to Caroline, the Wardens, or a member of the congregation. Please stay for tea or coffee after the service.*

### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

#### ST. TEILO'S

Tonight, 8pm  
Compline by candlelight  
Saturday, 11am - 2pm  
Meeting Room Café - last one before the new kitchen is built!

#### ST. MONICA'S

Wednesdays, 9 am  
Assembly  
(Caroline interviewing afterwards)

#### ST. MICHAEL'S

Monday, 3.15pm  
Sunday on Monday  
Tuesday  
Caroline interviewing  
Tuesday, 7pm  
Lent Group 2  
Thursday, 9.30am  
Holy Eucharist  
Thursday, 1.15pm  
Funeral of Esme Asbridge

For more detailed information on all our activities, please visit our website:  
[www.cathaysparish.org.uk](http://www.cathaysparish.org.uk)



*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

### Collect of the day:

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their baptism, and follow in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**



THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

SIT

The reader says: A reading from the Book of Genesis

**Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Silence:

Reader:

This is the word of the Lord.

Response:

**Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE

SIT

The reader says: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

**Romans 4: 13 - 25**

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Silence

Reader:

This is the word of the Lord

Response:

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22: 23 - 31**

STAND

Praise the Lord, / you that / fear him: O seed of Jacob, glorify him; \* stand in awe of / him, O / seed of / Israel.

For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor; \* neither has he hidden his / face / from them: but when they / cried to / him he / heard them.

From you comes my praise in the great / congre- / gation: I will perform my vows in the / presence • of / those that / fear you.

The poor shall eat / and be / satisfied: those who seek the Lord shall praise him; \* their / hearts shall / live for / ever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and / turn • to the / Lord: and all the families of the / nations • shall / bow be- / fore him.

For the kingdom / is the / Lord’s: and he / rules / over • the / nations.

How can those who sleep in the earth bow / down in / worship: or those who go down to the / dust / kneel be- / fore him?

He has saved my life for himself; \* my des- / cendants • shall / serve him: this shall be told of the Lord for / gene- / rations • to / come.

† They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people / yet un- / born: declaring that / he, the / Lord, has / done it.

The GOSPEL

STAND

Priest:

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark

Response:

**Glory to you, O Lord**

**Mark 8: 31 - 38**

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Response:

**Praise to you, O Christ.**