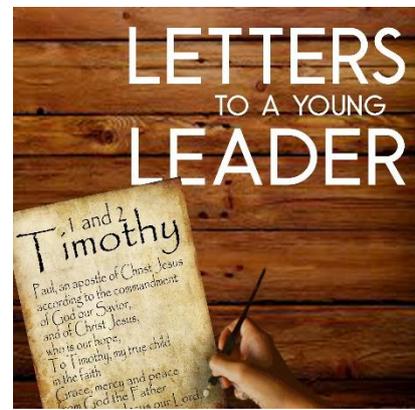


St John the Evangelist, Poulton

4th June 2020

Thursday of the 9th Week in Ordinary Time
Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest
(Eleventh Thursday of Isolation)

Sign on at: saintjohnpoulton@gmail.com



Thanks to those who replied to my last scripture reflection with your own thoughts – if you want to be taken off the email list, or know anyone who may appreciate the contact, please let me know – or print it for a neighbour. (If you have only just started to receive these daily reflections it is because I have only just found your address, sorry) Thanks. Fr Peter.

Messages from Fr Peter: Please pray for Chris Taylor – Chris was called to God yesterday
Say out loud to someone today: **Black Lives Matter!**

(Daily Scripture is available from www.universalis.com)

2 Tim 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

*If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.*

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

(What is God saying to you as you hear his Word here?)

I was with Chris Taylor in the Hospice on Sunday. She was a bit drugged but was very aware of what was happening and who I was. She joined in prayers and sign of the cross very eagerly and was pleased to know that so many of you from the parish were praying for her. Before I left I asked her if she had a message to pass on to you: she said “thank them all. And tell them I wanted to write them all a letter....” Now I was reminded of Chris as I was reading St Paul’s letter this morning.

Paul was becoming old and it is becoming clear, from this letter we have been reading, that Timothy was not just someone Paul was especially fond of, probably a third generation Christian, but also quite young. There is a special chemistry between old and young people together, isn’t there? And here Paul is passing on to Timothy the core of his faith in a way that Timothy could appreciate. He sums up all that his life had taught him – not in an “always do it like this, lad” way but in a way that allows the younger person to understand, build on it and grow. Some of the messages have come from Paul’s experience of learning through life:

“the word of God is not chained”. He speaks of his Faith Life as *“My Gospel”*, and not without suffering. And he sums up his picture of God in words that can be helpful to another – not doctrinal orders, but insights he could stick on the fridge door:

*“If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.”*

It is such personal insights of faith that affect us, infect us and help us grow. But its interesting that the ‘discussions about Religion’ we might have with a stranger at a party (Remember them?) usually tend towards ‘picky’ rather than personal faith insights. And so Paul advises Timothy to teach his people to be aware of this:

“Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.”

This topic seems to be appearing a lot in scripture at the moment. Its rather like science, which can help us understand exactly how things work, but in every day life we appreciate things differently: you may have ‘protein’, ‘carbohydrates’ and things – but I prefer to eat food! When I was young I went to a lecture in the Public Hall in Preston by Eric Laithwaite, the great northern engineer (went to Kirkham Grammar and lived in the Fylde somewhere), who was inspiring! But, after speaking about the wonderful things modern engineers like him had achieved announced that, for all humanity’s wonders, the wheel it didn’t exist in nature – but better things did! We need to analyse our beliefs and our world – but we need to be clear what really matters. (sorry about the reminiscing but you can add your own memories – sometime ask me about his story about the “Teapot and the Guzunder”)

...and so to a message from St Mark: And its hear again! When asked ‘which commandment is first of all’ we can almost hear someone at the back of the room shouting out when Jesus answers with “TWO”. Well done, Jesus, and the questioners simply says: “you’re right”.

Following Paul’s example what are your faith messages you would like to leave to your children and grandchildren - which are not orders, not doctrines, but your life discoveries about Jesus? As we have already noticed, in the ‘Time of the Spirit’ we are the Gospel for our own age – how do we share ours with others?

Pope Francis’ prayer for George Floyd and the United States:

“Dear brothers and sisters in the United States, I have witnessed with great concern the disturbing social unrest in your nation in these past days, following the tragic death of Mr George Floyd. My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, we have to recognize that the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost. Today I join the Church in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and in the entire United States, in praying for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and of all those others who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism. Let us pray for the consolation of their grieving families and friends and let us implore the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn. May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, intercede for all those who work for peace and justice in your land and throughout the world. May God bless all of you and your families.”

Pope Francis

Pope Francis announced a year to reflect on “Laudato Si” after Covid-19

24th May 2020 – 24th May 2021

“Today is also the fifth anniversary of the Encyclical Laudato si’, with which I sought to draw attention to the cry of the earth and of the poor. Thanks to the initiative of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the “Laudato si’ Week” we have just celebrated will blossom into a special Year of the anniversary of Laudato si’, a special year to reflect on the Encyclical, from 24 May this year until 24 May next year. I invite all people of good will to join in, to take care of our common home and our most fragile brothers and sisters. The prayer dedicated to this Year will be published on the site. It will be good to pray it.”

“I wish you all a good Sunday. Please do not forget to pray for me. Have a good lunch and arrivederci.”



Prayer for the special year of the anniversary of *Laudato si'*

Loving God, Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,

so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.

Be present to those in need in these difficult times,

especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

Help us to show creative solidarity

as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic.

Make us courageous in embracing

the changes required to seek the common good.

Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to succeed in listening and responding

to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs

of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

We pray through Christ our Lord,

under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, Amen.

PARISH NOTICES:

- **Know any parishioners housebound or who may need contacting?** - At the start of this lockdown a number of parishioners offered to find a way of being help to those parishioners who are in need or just housebound. Many people are in contact with the parish through this email or the WhatsApp group, but you may think of some who are not getting parish contacts – but they may get family support and food. If you have suggestions please email their names and addresses to the parish address and we can get parishioners to drop a message in to them. Thanks.
- **Local COVID19 Helplines** *(Official message from our Parish Organisers)*
The Wyre Council have a dedicated helpline for COVID19 isolation support. If you are struggling to get essential items, or need help, please ring 01253 891000 and select OPTION 7 when prompted. Alternatively, if you have access to the internet, you can fill in the online request for help here: https://www.wyre.gov.uk/forms/form/257/en/coronavirus_isolation_support_form

There is also another local network being organised by the Methodist Church - called POULTONCAN. The helpline there is 01253 670800 between 8am and 10pm, 7 days a week.

We have a group of parish volunteers who are going to be working with the council to respond to requests. If anyone would like to offer help, please email Jenny at jennifer.hillman.sutcliffe@gmail.com or telephone on 07568502749.

- **Parish WhatsApp Group:** Emily Halliwell (as part of the above group) has set up a closed parish WhatsApp account. I have finally been beaten into joining but am a bit of a WhatsApp virgin as yet! Emily says: “My number is 07969643648 if you want to be added just reply with your mobile number or text me. “
- **Local Bakery Offer:** Jane and Andrew Neal, who are always so generous to us by offering bread and cakes at parish social events, are offering delivered bakery goods to those who are in isolation or ill.

However they also offer a “click-and -collect” service (You can stop outside the shop in Cleveleys) for those who have transport. You can order on line at [neals-familybakery.co.uk](https://www.neals-familybakery.co.uk)

- Lancashire and South Cumbria website for current details on Hospitals & Corana Virus <https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/coronavirus>

Thoughts contributed by Virus Times’ readers:

(A few of anonymous responses from these Virus Times Reflections from our parishioners: Thanks to contributors.)

Thank you again for all the lovely and inspiring thoughts. It has made me realise after all my years how much the Holy Spirit has influenced my life without acknowledging it I must get on my knees.!!!

What profound words from Our Pope....It made me think a lot...hopefully and prayerfully action will follow. His words on how Jesus used his multifaceted disciples (with all their marked differences) AS THEY WERE :that Jesus did not pre package them as a homogeneous bunch -but held them in unison by The Spirit of our Living God were so, so powerful to this reader. God Bless Him!

This Morning at St Peter’s Hazel Grove the Mass readings were in Arabic and all bidding Prayers of which there were many languages from all over the world. It was quite a moving experience.

People being prayed for by our parish groups:

Various Older People we worry about	Whilst we are enjoying the promise of loosening lockdown we still have concerns for relations and friends who have signs of Covid-19 and who have been taken to Hospital. Please pray for these people – and for those we don’t know as well.
Sarah Maureen	Jen Hillman’s Grandma who has died
Lyn Reynolds	Nana or mother-in-law to Jacinta and Michelle. Lyn is a lot better and hoping to return home later this week. Thanks for amazing prayers.
Chris Taylor – who died on Wednesday	Please pray for her family
John (and family)	Family friend of Emma who has died aged 49
Louie aged 13	The neighbour of a parishioner who has Leukaemia who is having a sudden set back. Prayer, please
From Jayne Clark	Could I please ask that our parishioners pray for all the staff in children’s social care who are still working to safeguard children in our area and around the country. It never ceases to amaze me how hard they work generally, despite the abuse that they often are subjected to, but more so currently given the extra risk that they are putting themselves under to visit the vulnerable.
Maureen O’Connell & Family(Not Covid-19)	Mrs Donnelly’s Mum
Paul Sharrock (Not Covid-19) (and family: Kathryn, Mary & Rachael)	Your prayer of healing for Paul is remarkable –Paul has been moved to a hospital nearer his family – we hope he can see them. <i>Fr Peter</i>
Parents home schooling AND home job-ing	Thank God for our parents
Our Teachers	Who are at school or preparing work for our children
Luke (not Covid-19) Died Yesterday	A young man recently married into a family I know in Australia, aged 30. (Fr Peter)
Hugh (Not Covid-19)	The brother of Emma, a friend of mine (Fr Peter), who has been found to have cancer only recently. He has three young children. Prayers Please