

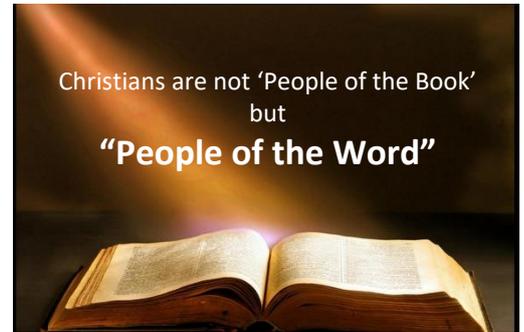
# St John the Evangelist, Poulton

5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Friday of the 9<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

*(Eleventh Friday of Isolation)*

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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:** I have added an interesting message at the back about Pentecost by a Benedictine on line. Say out loud to someone today: **Black Lives Matter!**

*(Daily Scripture is available from [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com))*

## **2 Tim 3:10-17**

*You know what I have taught, how I have lived, what I have aimed at; you know my faith, my patience and my love; my constancy and the persecutions and hardships that came to me in places like Antioch, Iconium and Lystra – all the persecutions I have endured; and the Lord has rescued me from every one of them. You are well aware, then, that anybody who tries to live in devotion to Christ is certain to be attacked; while these wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and deceived themselves.*

*You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.*

## **Mark 12:35-37**

*At that time while teaching in the Temple, Jesus said, 'How can the scribes maintain that the Christ is the son of David? David himself, moved by the Holy Spirit, said:*

*The Lord said to my Lord:*

*Sit at my right hand*

*and I will put your enemies*

*under your feet.*

*David himself calls him Lord, in what way then can he be his son?' And the great majority of the people heard this with delight.*

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

St Paul constantly mentions two things when he writes to people: "I have found difficulties", and "make sure you keep to what you have been taught". It is not surprising, then, that he does the same in this short last letter to a young Christian leader as he encourages him on.

Today he remembers his specific hardships in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra – but he only mentions them so that he can also remember that: "*the Lord has rescued me from every one of them*". I suppose that it was even difficult for him to be fully aware that the Lord was rescuing him, at the time – but reflecting on this past will help him in the new 'now'. The time we are living in at the moment may be putting that strain on us – the lack of family, the challenge of living our faith, the fear for our health, the stress on our services, just the need of a hug, for goodness sake! Paul says to Timothy, and us, "are you aware of the Lord rescuing you NOW?" (Now, there is the first ponder as we place ourselves in the Lord's hands)

The second message to Timothy as he starts a new life, is to be aware of the teaching – "*You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true*". This, of course, does not mean just 'do what your told', but know the teaching to be true from your own experience.

They used to say (whoever 'they' were?) 'Keep the Faith' – but today in our Church we would say; 'Spread the Faith' – and that needs understanding as well as knowledge.

It is a good prayer to spend some time giving to God in thanks those who have been your teachers in Faith (Not just 'schoolteachers' but all those who have infected your Faith in Jesus). When you have thanked God then ask yourself how they shared what they actually believed. How have we learned who they were believing in? How can we honour them by noticing their words, their actions, their sharing of their faith, their surety and their doubt? And so then, how can we make sure we are speaking of our faith in who Jesus is for us – by learning from those who have taught us? Of our good teachers Paul says: "*from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus*". (this is far beyond 'RI' or 'Penny Catechism answers, isn't it?) We are very blessed to know, and have known, people like those Paul did and speaks of today!

And so Paul places these gifts in the hands of Timothy and his community – and our hands, too. He leaves this message, which we see in the words of Pope Francis for our own day, as just as central and vital:

*"All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work."*

And Paul seems to know that the "what a person believes" will be evident to those they work alongside in the same way as "what" our best of teachers believed was evident to us.

("All scripture", for Paul & Pope Francis, means the "Old Testament" and well as the "New" in case you were wondering)

**A note from St Mark:** This passage is within a group where Jesus is being attacked by the scribes and Pharisees. I am presuming today's short passage is entering a dispute over the word "Son", and whether the Messiah will be superior to a King – even whilst being younger. Jesus seems to get marks from one side of the 'House' but not the other.

If anyone outside has insights into this please pass them on to us. Full stop.

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

24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – 24<sup>th</sup> 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](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](mailto: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.*

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**People being prayed for by our parish groups:**

Veronica McNeill	Has gone into hospital – Prayers please
Connie Elwood	Has gone into hospital – Prayers please
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



*Pentecost: from the Chapter House paintings of  
D. Werburg Welch Stanbrook Abbey*

My favourite image of the Spirit's coming at Pentecost is fire, *cleansing* fire. At a time when COVID-19 and a lack of leadership in many countries have contributed to a sense of being adrift in a stew of corruption and fear, the idea of the Holy Spirit sweeping in like a storm-wind, scattering the darkness with flashes of fire and lightning, cleansing the world of sin and negativity and putting fresh heart into us all is immensely attractive. But it must be the Spirit's doing, not that of some self-appointed messiah who thinks they have the right to order the world according to their own notions. That raises important questions about discernment and co-operation with grace — in other words, how we work out what God is asking, and how we follow his lead.

I think D. Werburg's painting provides a clue. Whom do you see, and what are they doing? We see some of the apostles, certainly, but also Our Lady and Mary Magdalene, a reminder that the Church is not confined to a single group but embraces all humankind. The figures are shown at prayer and the Spirit has come upon them, but notice how the symbol of the Spirit, little golden flickers of flame, is painted against their haloes. To me, that suggests that the Spirit works through the ordinary and everyday as much as through the dramatic and unusual. Indeed, the action of the Holy Spirit may be almost imperceptible at first, but think how it changed the early Church! There is more. D. Werburg was a great admirer of the Desert Fathers. When she painted Our Lady robed in a flame-coloured garment, I wonder whether she had in mind the story told of Abba Joseph

*Abba Lot came to Abba Joseph and said: Father, according as I am able, I keep my little rule, and my little fast, my prayer, meditation and contemplative silence; and, according as I am able, I strive to cleanse my heart of thoughts: now what more should I do? The elder rose up in reply and stretched out his hands to heaven, and his fingers became like ten lamps of fire. He said: Why not become fire?*

We, too, can become fire, but our fire must be ablaze with God not self. Only if it is can we hope that others will take fire also and the renewal of the world be accomplished.

<https://www.ibenedictines.org/2020/05/>