



## Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Monday (Margaret of Scotland)

Reading – Matthew Chapter 7, verses 1 to 12

**“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.**

Lord Jesus, at this time when things seem so tough and so many people are struggling, doing to others what we would have them to do us has never been more important.

May we all find it within ourselves to do what is right and treat each other with love and care, and help where we can. Lord, may your whole world do the same, so that all may feel loved and cared for and helped, and so that, despite what is happening in the world right now, the hope we have in you may come to be known by all. Amen

Tuesday (Hugh)

Reading – Matthew Chapter 7, verses 13 to the end

**“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.**

Jesus, our Saviour, we thank you that, because of the Bible, your word, we can hear for ourselves the words you said all those years ago. Help us to hear those words afresh today, and, in so doing, help us to build our houses on the rock of your words, and to put them fully into action, knowing that if we do so, we will start a revolution that will be felt across the world. You speak with the authority of God – help us to follow you each and every day, knowing that going your way is the only thing that makes sense. We are your people – help us to be truly yours, through what we say, what we do and who we are, Jesus, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen

### **Wednesday (Elizabeth of Hungary)**

#### **Reading – Luke Chapter 19, verses 1 to 10**

**Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”**

Lord Jesus, when we read the story of Zacchaeus, we see a man who was a sinner. He was a tax collector and a thief. But, in reality, we should see ourselves. As Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see you, so we have trees of our own that we climb, to hide away from you as well as trying to see you. But just as you bought a revolution in Zacchaeus' life, and he turned his life around, so too do you bring a revolution to our lives. Help us to hear your voice in our lives calling us down from our trees, as you want to be with us. Help us to take heed of your voice, and act accordingly, to turn our lives around. Be with us and start a revolution in our very souls, just as you did with Zacchaeus, and help us to no longer be lost, but be saved. Amen

### **Thursday (Hilda)**

#### **Reading – Matthew Chapter 8, verses 14 to 22**

**When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:**

**“He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.”**

Jesus, our healer, the words you fulfilled in Isaiah speak to us strongly today. You came to take up our infirmities and to bear our diseases. As this pandemic continues, we know you are bearing it with us and are with all who are suffering because of it. Lord we ask today that your healing power would truly rain down on this your world, so that this pandemic would end. We also ask that as you heal the world, the world would not go back to how it was, but rather would continue to be warm, loving, caring and helping, both to each other and the world around us. May your whole world come to know your love for themselves, and stop at nothing to spread that love to all around them. You created this world to be loving and for humans to look after it – may this truly come to pass so that good will come out of this horrid pandemic. In your healing, caring and merciful name we pray, Amen

## Friday (Edmund)

### Reading – Matthew Chapter 8, verses 23 to the end

**Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"**

Lord Jesus, if we want to know about your power, we need to look no further than when you were in the boat and, to your disciples' amazement, even the wind and the waves obeyed you. This is the power you had on earth, and it is the power you used to do good, to help those who needed help, to be with those no-one else would give time to, and, in the end, it is the power you used to go to the cross and die for our sins. We know your power was God's power, and you were doing his work whilst on earth. Then you sent the Holy Spirit to help us continue what you started. May we do just that. May we continue to do your work in our lives, so that more and more people can come to you and know you and your love in their lives. And may we never forget that through you and in your strength, you can do so much more in us than we can imagine, and so much more for this planet than we can possibly think of. In this tough time, that gives us, and your whole planet, so much hope that things will get better, because your power is greater than any virus, and it will be defeated. So we offer up these prayers in the name of our one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

## Saturday

### Reading – Matthew Chapter 9, verses 1 to 17

**As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."**

Jesus Christ, Son of God, when you looked at him, you saw Matthew. You didn't see what everyone else saw – a tax collector in the pay of Rome, an enemy, a sinner without hope of saving. You saw Matthew. In the same way we can know that when you look at us, you don't see all the bad things we have done, but you simply see us and you call us by name. As you said when the Pharisees could not believe you were eating with Matthew and many sinners, you came to call sinners and not the righteous. For that, we are all very grateful, because we all know that we are sinners, and often far from righteous. But we know you came to save us, and so much so that while we were still sinners, you still went to the cross to save us. Thank you Lord for being our Saviour, and you call us sinners, let us respond, "Here I am, send me". Amen

## Sunday (Christ the King)

Reading – Matthew Chapter 28, verses 16 to the end

**Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

On this the feast of Christ the King, Lord Jesus our King, we pray to you today. Be with your world and help your world be with you. Be with your church across the world, no matter what denominations they may be, and help all your people remember and know that, whatever else may be the case, we all worship the same God and the same king. Thank you that you are our King and that you reign over us all. Help us to commit again to your great commission and do all we can to make disciples of all nations, so that more and more people may know your wonderful kingship for themselves and know your loving reign too. And as we do so, let us not forget the last words of Matthew's gospel – you are with us always, to the very end of the age. Thank you that you have never left us and you never stop loving us and your world. May more and more people come to you now – Christ our King and our redeemer. Amen