

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT

‘Virtually Church but with some way to go...’

Welcome

Welcome to this inaugural edition of ‘Cutting Edge Camelot’ as we prepare to celebrate Mothering Sunday in a new way.

Scripture Passage

Luke 2:41-52

Every year, the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. When it was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents didn't know this - they thought he was with the group, so they travelled a whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends.

They didn't find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. On the third day they found him in the temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, “My son. why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you!”

He answered them, “Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?”

But they didn't understand his answer. So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and men.

Reflection

When Jewish boys were twelve years old - these days it's thirteen - they performed a ceremony, known as Bar Mitzvah. That means a Son of the Law. They recited words from the Bible they'd learned by heart, and then they were regarded as adults. They were supposed to know the difference between right and wrong, and they were considered to be responsible for their own actions. Then they went home, and if there was a family business to go into, into it they went. Jesus was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem when he was twelve. But we know he got into discussions with the scholars in the temples. What seems to have impressed them wasn't that he knew all the answers, but that he was asking the right sort of questions.

Now how, you might ask, could you set off for home, and not realise your twelve-year old wasn't with you? Picture if you will, all the women and children travelling together in a group, talking about the price of fish and what useless articles their men were, and all the men travelling together talking about camels. And Mary thought *Jesus is all grown up now - he'll be with the men*. And Joseph thought *He may be twelve, but he's still his mother's boy - he'll be with the women*. And both of them were wrong, and you've just read what happened. And when Jesus said he would be about his Father's business, he didn't mean Joseph and Sons, builders and carpenters. He meant God and Son.

Jesus went back with his parents to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. Although he wanted to get on with his Father's business of loving the whole world, he started off by loving his parents, and doing what they told him to. This is an important lesson we all have to learn. St John said, in one of his letters, *if someone says they love God, and they don't love their brother, they aren't telling the truth*. That old saying, *charity begins at home* has nothing to do with giving to charity, and not giving to Africans when there's poor people

in this country. Charity means love, and we have to start loving with the people nearest to us. There is no point in our going out to do great things for God, or wanting to serve him, or put the world right in the name of Jesus if you haven't got your home life sorted.

A few years later, St Paul was writing to the church in Ephesus, in Turkey. They wanted to know how they should live, so that everybody would know they were Christians. He wrote to the children in the church, telling them to obey their parents. They would have expected that, and he didn't let them down. *Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents.* But then he wrote something to the Mums and Dads that wasn't often heard in those days. They weren't expecting it. He said, *Parents, don't treat your children in such a way that they become angry. Instead bring them up with Christian discipline and instruction.* Isn't that great? Parents - don't wind your kids up! Paul, bless him, is saying there are duties on both sides. But if you love each other, it doesn't feel like a duty; it's a pleasure. We like to find out what our parents, and our children, want us to do for them, and then we like to do it as a way of showing how much we love them. Mutual submission is what St Paul called it. When you realise how much your mother loves you, nothing is too much for you to do for her, just to show how much you love her. When you realise how much Jesus loves you, nothing's too much to do for him, either.

Ron

Points for Prayers

- Thanksgiving for the love of mothers, fathers and Jesus.
- Parishioners suffering injury and who are in hospital.
- All who are required to self-isolate, for support and encouragement.
- St Thomas a Becket, South Cadbury responding to its recent lead theft.

A special prayer for coronavirus

God of hope be with me, calm my anxious mind and remove fear. Surround me, keep me safe until the threat passes. **Surround me with love, and deliver me from evil.**

Protect my **family**, preserve us O God, and keep us in health and provision. May my **community**, despite enforced isolation, be united through acts of loving kindness. **Surround us with love and deliver us from evil.**

Help those in the **NHS** as they care for the sick and deal with the virus; for **businesses** as they manage the economic challenges and for employees sent home. **Surround them with love and deliver them from evil.**

Grant wisdom to our **government** and may the **PM** be surrounded by wise counsel. Guide their decisions today to lead us safely. **Surround them with love and deliver them from evil.**

May those working to stop the pandemic globally make the breakthroughs they need to **eradicate the virus**. Reduce its impact on other nations affected today. **Surround them with love and deliver them from evil. Amen.**

Why not try?

- A candle lit at 7.00pm this Mothering Sunday and placed in your window as a symbol of Christ the light of the world.
- Celebrating Easter by placing posy of flowers (symbol of Resurrection) in jam jar by the side of the wall outside the gate of the church. This originated with St John the Baptist North Cheriton but maybe other churches could adapt this?

Updates

- As mentioned above there has sadly been a recent lead theft at St Thomas a Becket South Cadbury.
- There are new rules on funerals, weddings and baptisms during the coronavirus emergency. Details of these can be found on Church of England website under its coronavirus guidance for churches section.
- Network of community volunteers in action across the parishes, for more information see Excalibur.

Growing as a worshipper, a servant and a family

We pray that 'we might live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us' (Ephesians 5:2)