

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 37

Sunday 12th July 2020

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

Welcome

Welcome to this Sunday’s edition of Cutting Edge Camelot. Continuing our series on the Lord’s Prayer George reflects on what it means to pray for our daily bread.

There is also a further update on the return to public worship which includes news of a service at Compton Pauncefoot next Sunday.

The Lord’s Prayer

Traditional Version

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Modern Version

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Reflection

‘Give us this day our daily bread’

The disciples could see that prayer was very important to Jesus, and that he found it a source of encouragement and guidance. They wanted to be like him. So they asked him to teach them how to pray. Were they perhaps disappointed when all he gave them was the Lord's Prayer? They had known him pray for hours on end. This prayer, with its seven simple petitions, was one they could say in less than a minute.

If at first they did feel disappointed, later they would have seen the wisdom of what he had done. He had commanded them to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28.19). Whatever their way of life (fisherman? tentmaker?), joining in that task was to be the overarching purpose of their lives. The first three petitions described their objectives. Saying them would have seemed a declaration of loyalty and of personal commitment to

the shared endeavour. The next four were requests for help and protection in their lives as they went wherever the Holy Spirit might lead them.

Like most of us, they were still beginners at prayer. Here was a basic structure to which they could add thanksgivings, intercessions for others, prayers for issues of the moment, and periods of silence, simply waiting upon God, as their prayer life gradually deepened and became more like what they had seen in Jesus.

As for them, so for us who are Christ's 21st Century disciples.

The bread in the petition for “our daily bread” stands for the basic necessities of life: food for a healthy diet, clean water, clothing, a roof over our heads and enough money to pay for these things. The basic necessities of life today may include more things than they did in New Testament times, but the principle is unchanged: we are not asking for luxuries or for more than we need.

Bread also stands for spiritual food. Jesus said he was the bread of life (John 6. 35) and that if we eat his flesh and drink his blood we will have eternal life in us (John 6. 54). We are what we eat. We eat and drink tokens of Christ's body and blood at Holy Communion, praying that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. We pray for grace that we may also eat and drink his flesh and blood metaphorically by allowing him into our lives, so that we become more and more like him as our lives are caught up in his eternal life.

We ask for our “daily” bread - no more than enough to be going on with, a daily reminder of our dependence on God. In this as in all things, we trust in God whose “ceaseless truth and never-failing love, sees all [his] children's wants, and knows what best for each will prove”.

And we ask for “our” daily bread. That is the same “our” as appears as the first word of the prayer. All human beings are God’s children, whatever their nationality, colour or creed. So “our” daily bread is not just bread for ourselves, our families, the community we live in, or even all Christian people. It is bread for all mankind. By implication, our petition is for good harvests, for peace and good government in countries where that is lacking, for unselfishness by the countries of the prosperous West. Christ’s concern is for all God’s children - and we pray through him and as members of his Church.

George

Hymn Suggestion

A well known hymn which asks for our bread from heaven is ‘Guide me, O thou great Redeemer’.

Points for Prayers

- For our spiritual growth and discipleship as we respond to the good news of Jesus Christ, for humility in being able to ask God for what we need on a daily basis and to share in Christ’s concern for everyone that their daily needs are met
- For Camelot churches in responding to the reopening for private prayer and public worship
- Thanksgiving for care, skill and courage of NHS workers and those in care homes
- Those suffering from coronavirus in hospitals, care homes and at home
- Need for further largescale testing

- Prayers for parents, teachers, governors and children of North Cadbury Church of England Primary School as the school is partially reopened, prayers also for Horsington school
- Prayers for those affected economically by the lockdown, for businesses and those who have become unemployed
- Prayers and thanksgiving for contributions to the foodbanks and for those helping to take these to the foodbanks.

Public worship in the Camelot churches following the easing of lockdown

I am pleased to be able to announce that our first service of public worship following the easing of lockdown will be a Communion service at 9.30am at St Mary's Compton Pauncefoot on Sunday 19th July (next Sunday). I am afraid, however, that because of the significant limitations on the capacity of the church due to social distancing - these also apply to all the other Camelot churches - this cannot be a benefice service. Rather it will be focussed on those who have regularly attended this service in the past, mainly those who are resident in Compton Pauncefoot and Blackford. Further details on this service are available from the Church Treasurer Tony Beadles, tonybeadles@me.com.

Various other PCCs across the Camelot Group are actively engaged in planning for reopening for public worship and further details on this will be given as and when such plans become firm and settled.

Reopening churches for private prayer

Permission was given for the reopening of churches for private prayer. This permission was coupled with the need to complete a Risk Assessment and to meet some fairly rigorous standards for instance in relation to cleaning, hygiene and social distancing. Not all of the Camelot churches have the

resources at present to comply with these standards, especially the need for regular and thorough cleaning.

However, a number of churches across the Group are now open for private prayer as follows:-

Sunday morning

Compton Pauncefoot open from 9.30 am to 10.30 am.

South Cadbury open from 10 am to 12 noon

North Cadbury open from 10.30 am to 12 noon

Monday afternoon

Galhampton open from 4 pm to 5 pm

Wednesday afternoon

North Cadbury, open from 2.30 pm to 4 pm

Friday afternoon

Galhampton open from 10 am to 11 am

Update on North Cadbury Church of England Primary School

In accordance with government guidelines selected classes have returned to North Cadbury Church of England Primary School from the beginning of this week until the summer holidays in July.

Excalibur and the Parish Office

Because of concerns relating to the hand delivery of parish magazines and also the relative lack of available content an electronic rather than a printed

version of Excalibur will be produced during the period of the restrictions. This will be available on the website, www.camelotparishes.co.uk, and will include Camelot People giving details of occasional offices in the benefice (this for the moment is confined to funerals during the suspension of both weddings and baptisms). The July Excalibur is now online and can be downloaded from the homepage of the website.

The Parish Office is now closed. Please contact Rob via email (office@camelotparishes.org.uk) or on 01749 850934.

Diocesan weekly livestreamed services and reflections

Bishop Peter and Bishop Ruth will be livestreaming a mid-week Eucharist each week and offering recorded reflections each Sunday.

For further details please see the Diocesan website.

Church of England Daily Hopeline

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a new telephone service, 'Daily Hopeline'. If you ring the free number 0800 804 8044 you can hear a recorded message and can also listen to well-known hymns along with prayers and a reflection based on a hymn.

Premier Radio

Available from Premier Radio (DAB radio and channel 725 via Freeview TV) Sunday morning of sacred music, songs and teaching etc, 7.00am-12.00 noon. Includes 'Hearts and Hymns' by Pam Rhodes, 8.00 to 10.00am with great variety of hymns and accompanying information.

Bible studies on weekday mornings.

Some other streamed resources

Here are a selection of some streamed resources available online which you may find helpful:-

- The Royal School of Church Music website provides a Hymn of the Day and Sunday Self-Service with music, readings and prayers.
- The Prayer Book Society has details of online streaming of BCP services.

An inclusive Communion celebrated on behalf of the benefice

Ron and Pam will be celebrating Communion regularly in their home each Sunday at 10.00am. Please be aware of this because even though no-one can join them they are praying for us all and hope that you will feel included in this act of Communion.

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)