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THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY of the YEAR (A)

5th July 2020

Dear Friends,

Now, we really are moving into our 'green period' or 'Ordinary Sundays of the Year' but, as we said before : 'What is ordinary about any Sunday?' and : 'What is ordinary about any passage from the Scriptures'. Each Sunday should **enrich our minds**, and **open our hearts** just a little more to God, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ... And, it should open our minds and hearts to people around us, near and far, because each of us is made in the image and likeness of God. Which is why Jesus said : 'Whatsoever you do for the least of these, you do for me.'

As Christians, we are blessed in having a God who understands our brokenness, who works with that brokenness, and loves us in our brokenness. We can turn to God, no matter how broken we are or how broken we feel, and He is there for us ... In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus saying;
'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light' **Matthew 11 : 25 – 30**

[Readings for the Fourteenth Sunday of the Year](#)

'Who else has a God like theirs?' the early pagans and those of other Religions used to ask. The same question still applies today. It would be good if those around us, having asked the question about our God were then able to say: **'See how these Christians love one another'**.

We know ourselves to be frail human beings, easily overwhelmed by challenges, uncertain of ourselves and our capabilities, wary of those around us, worried that others are judging us ... What need we fear, if we are made in the image and likeness of God?

And, if we find ourselves unsure or doubting,

we should accept the invitation of Jesus to turn to Him, and, to shoulder His yoke ...



Men and women in the Armed Forces march in absolute perfect time; totally in time with those who are beside, behind and before them. The symmetry of their displays is spellbinding, and we cannot turn our eyes away. We are looking at perfection.

Yes, men and women are working in perfect harmony when they march. Behind the scenes they have put in hours and hours of practice to achieve this relatively short display. But once dismissed from their serried ranks, they may not get on with each other at all; they may pull in different directions.

The perfection that God asks for is a perfection that comes from turning to Jesus often, to hear His word ... and a perfection that comes from allowing us to be *'driven'* by the Holy Spirit ...

We used the word 'driven' of Ss Peter and Paul last week. Two imperfect men, who became perfect through their mission to build up the Kingdom of God. They each followed the voice of the Holy Spirit ...



Two oxen pulling a heavy cart must work together; if they don't, they end up with a load that jars and jolts and can even overturn ... But working together, ***their movement is even more impressive*** than watching the Military march on parade.

If we work closely together with Jesus, we will feel the beat of His Heart ... and let us become one with Him ...

We will hear the words of His gentlest whisper, and be prompted in how to respond ... We will see the vista that He sees, and with Him, work towards helping others to achieve the perfection, we can see ... We will know that, with His hands holding the reins, we can let go and leave everything we carry with Him. **God's hand guides us ... God's eyes are always on us ... God's love is forever with us ...**

'Who else has a God like ours?' A God who knows us intimately?

We are blessed



In this Sunday's first Reading we hear about a king who is coming to his people ...

He is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey ...

[Zechariah 9 : 9 - 10](#)

Our thoughts may well turn first of all
to the procession of Jesus into Jerusalem,
on that first 'Palm Sunday' ... He rode on a donkey on that day ...
But, why do we need to know how our King arrived?
And, if we do need to know, 'Why wasn't He riding a horse?' ...
A horse is a much more powerful animal, an animal of war,
able to withstand so many attacks.



This is not what Jesus wanted.

Jesus wants to appear among people on the back of a humble donkey,
on the back of an animal of peace, on the back of a beast of burden ...

It is truly fascinating if you can look into different parts of the Bible
and understand what is meant.

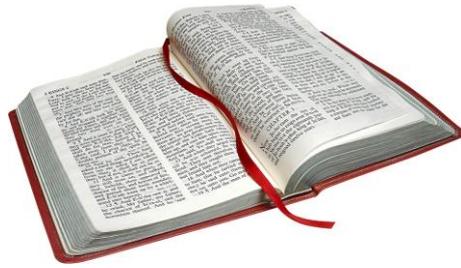
In the Bible, a horse is always seen as an animal for war.

Then ask yourself, when people see you approaching a group, are you 'riding a horse?'
out to wage war on someone, or some group of people?
These are the people who gossip and break others down.

Or, do you approach a group meekly, gently joining a group without disturbing them?
Do you speak out about the good to be found in others?
Do you seek to build up rather than to destroy?

And so a few phrases can provide us with an Examination of Conscience
and then lead us into today's Gospel
where we read that **Jesus becomes the One who carries our burdens** ...
and which of us does not have some burden in our life?

The Bible, the Scriptures, are fascinating as well as being the Word of God.
Within the cover of the Bible you will find Books about History ... about the Laws of the time ...
You can read about how God led His people out of a land of slavery into a land where they
were promised only what is good ... you can read poetry in the Psalms ...
a Love story in the pages of the Song of Songs ... and, needless to say, in the pages of the New
Testament we meet the Messiah, the Saviour, the One whom people have waited for down
through the years ... In these pages we hear the words that Jesus spoke, the miracles He
performed, the way in which He treated people, we read about His prayer-life, His Passion,
Death and Resurrection ... and then follows the diary of the Apostles, after Jesus had
Ascended to Heaven; **with the Holy Spirit as their Guide, they had to build up
the Church of which we are a part over 2,000 years later ...**
How could this Book be put on one side by any Christian?!



Spend time with the Scriptures, grow to know them, and to love them,
let them guide you through all the moments of your life ...

Spend time with Jesus, let Him reveal Himself to you, let Him tell you about Himself,
let Him tell you how He will help you ...
Just be still ... and listen in your heart

May the Word of God touch your lives and bring you peace, trust and deep Joy ...
This is our prayer for each of you ...

Fr. Michael

Si. Liz

Don't forget, the 100 Club's July Draw takes place today.
Watch the Web to find out if you have won!

And, **speaking of watching the Parish Website** ... if you know of a neighbour,
or someone who lives near you, but who may not have access to the Internet,
please do print off a copy of our Weekly Letter and slip it through their door.
We know how grateful people are when this has been done for them.
It brings back the feeling of 'belonging' of 'not being forgotten'.
With no Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound,
they can, through no fault of their own become very isolated.
And, don't worry about treading on anyone's toes, or hesitating in case someone else
is giving them a copy.

Think about it ... if you were in their situation, would you prefer to receive two or three
copies, or none? We know which we would choose!