



# Holy Trinity Hillcrest

## News Letter June 2016

### Rector's Reflections

Dear God's people,

I was struck by a verse from one of our daily readings on Corpus Christi this past week. The verse is from Exodus 16: 28, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and instructions." It is set in the context of JHWH's provision for the exiles from Egypt as they journeyed through the wilderness. Imagine the scene; the Jews had to leave Egypt in a hurry. There was no time to gather any belongings. The journey was to a land that JHWH promised, at "a land flowing with milk and honey". But to get there they were to pass through the wilderness, a place of scarcity and want - very little to choose from to satisfy their physical needs for their forty year journey. They needed bread so JHWH provides a "flaky substance" that had to be collected off the ground in the morning. The instruction was that they needed to collect sufficient manna for their needs for one day at a time. In typical human form they gathered more than the day's allotment for fear that there may not be any the following day. It had to do with trusting JHWH for their daily provision. They obviously lacked the trust and faith they needed to have in JHWH.

What I found interesting in this passage was JHWH displeasure not only with those who failed to heed God's command but with the whole community. It speaks to us about collective responsibility. In modern day suburbia we have adopted a very private lifestyle and seem to strive on keeping people out rather than inviting them in. We struggle through personal journeys and become annoyed and irritated by other who interrupts our personal quest. In many ways we have become like tortoises and ostriches; we either withdraw and hope that others will not invade our space or we stick our heads into the sand and pretend that we have not seen it and that we not seen. This is not the case in Exodus 16: 14-31.

Here, even though Moses does his best in teaching the people they refused to listen and continue to do their own thing. And in this case, instead of the contraveners of the Law being punished all share a portion of the spoils of sinfulness. It reminds us that the consequence of sin not only affects the contravener but everyone connected to him/her, the incident, and the community. Sin is a personal act but the consequences impacts the lives of many.

As I see it, we, the children of God, have two responsibilities in dealing with the things that are not ethically, morally and spiritually correct. The first is to pray for the person(s) that commits wrongful actions, asking God to grant them the wisdom and strength to stop

doing those things. We pray too for all victims to know the power of God who overcame evil with good so that we may not live in the bondage of the evil committed but victoriously in the knowledge of the risen life. Secondly, we should address the intentions to do wrong and condemn wrongful actions. There is no course for any discipline that warrants wrongful actions. So in as much as we share the joys and victories of glorious occasions we should share in the regret and remorse of things that are wrong and sinful.



It is in the spirit of collective responsibility that we at Holy Trinity want to begin a new ministry, we do not have a name as yet but its focus will be on providing emotional, spiritual and educational support for people living with cancer. It will focus on both the inflicted and affected. Gloria van Eeden has kindly agreed to coordinate this group and as a person living with pancreatic cancer is keen to share the learnings of her journey with others. Throughout the 20 months since her diagnosis Gloria has lived her life with the same zeal and purpose as she did prior to the diagnosis. She says it has to do with attitude, life style and spirituality which she had to learn and adjust to as she sought to live each day meaningfully.

In the same way that the Jews of Moses' time wanted to get away from the hardship of oppression and slavery so I believe we all want to be free from the bondages of ill-health and suffering. Healthy and holistic living is a condition we all hope to enjoy for as long as we have breath in our physical bodies. As many of us progress in wisdom and knowledge, which unfortunately comes with age, our physical strength diminishes. As we summit the hill of our midlife we begin to realise the frailty of our bodies, waking each day with another pain of muscles and bones in places we never gave much thought to. It begins to rob us of the freedom of movement and agility we may have enjoyed most of our lives. The diseases and illnesses of today are of a more serious nature than just aches and pains. More and more people are succumbing to critical sicknesses with grim diagnosis. The majority of people on our Prayer List have been diagnosed with one or another form of cancer. The challenge of living with this dreaded disease is great to both the person inflicted and those affected.

In the spirit of our collective responsibility we want to create a forum for people, both within this community of faith as well as in the broader community to gather to provide support, invite experts to enlighten us, offer

advice on coping mechanisms, journeying alongside each other on the paths of life, pray for one another and through it all affirm our faith, and find renewed strength for the journey.

I ask for your prayers for this new ministry. It will begin with a healing service at both Eucharistic services on the 19 June at which people will be invited to the Altar Rail for individual prayer and anointing with Holy Oil. At this service Gloria van Eeden will share her journey from the time of her diagnosis and the challenges she has had. The Healing Service will not be limited to people living with cancer but for everyone seeking prayer for healing from God.

Following on from this the first meeting will take place on Thursday, 21 June at 15h00 in the Fellowship Room. This group for people living with cancer will decide the way forward and the kind of support needed.

Please pray for God's blessing for these two events. We pray for humility and obedience to God as we continue in our efforts to show God's love to those seeking it.

Fr Gary



## Healing Ministry...

### What we believe...

Healing is for everyone; we all need healing in some way. Through the healing ministry, Jesus Christ meets us at our point of need. Every form of suffering can be helped in some way through this ministry.

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is the good news of healing which Jesus Christ proclaimed for individuals, communities and for the world. He implied as much when he said "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners" (Mark 2:17).

So, too, the Church's ministry can also be described as one of healing – the healing of ourselves, and of our relationships with God, with one another and with our environment. That is why we hear phrases such as "the healing of society" or "the healing of our divisions".

### What can we hope for?

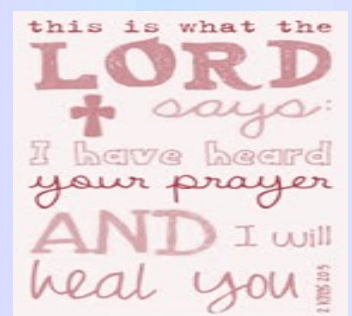
Is to know the love of God restoring us in every cell of our being, every thought of our mind and every pang of emotion to enable us on every step of life's journey. – Dr Gareth Tuckwell

We believe that God loves us and wills the very best for us in his kingdom. But we also know that suffering and death are conditions which we cannot escape from in this life. God is not distant from us in that. In Jesus Christ he shared in this life's suffering and death on the cross, and he can draw close to us in times such as these.

However, his resurrection in the power of the Holy Spirit gives us hope that we might have a foretaste of his kingdom here and now and that through the Church's ministry we shall receive his love, strength and healing touch.

What form that healing will take we cannot tell. It may be:

- Help to carry us through a prolonged illness or disability
- A recovery more rapid than expected
- Experiencing our fear of death being driven out by God's love
- A healing which is so unexpected that we want to call it a "miracle"
- A growing awareness of inner peace and wholeness



### Where can we find this?

The ministry of healing is the ministry of prayer, word, sacrament and pastoral care by which the Church acts as a channel of Christ's healing grace to give people that fullness of life that he intends for them – Bishop Dominic Walker

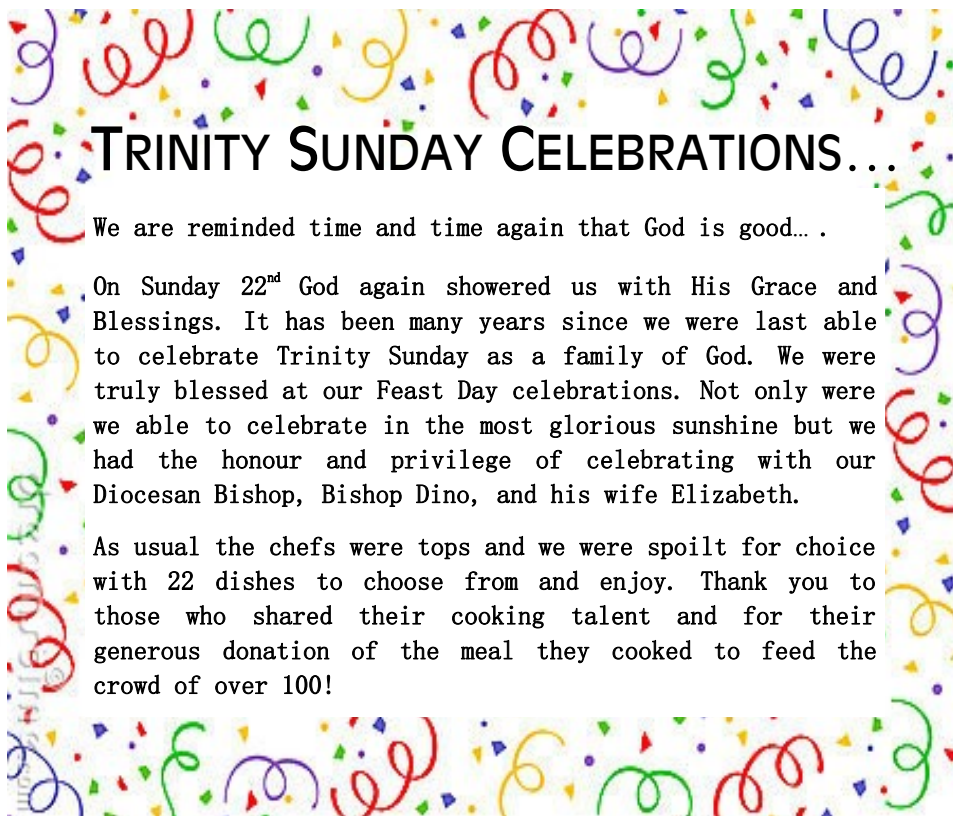
Within the general sense of healing there is a particular duty for the Church of praying for healing the sick. "Go and preach the Gospel... Go and heal the sick" summarises the commission that Christ gave to his Church, and so Christians have always been called to have a special concern for those sick in mind, body and spirit.

For many centuries the Church was at the centre of care for the sick, as witnessed by the Christian foundation of many of our hospitals. With the development of the medical, nursing and other caring professions, the Church's role changed. We still seek to cooperate closely with these professions (many of whose members are Christians), but also to pray for and with the sick as well.

If you would like to receive healing ministry, please contact Gary, Bruce or the Office, who will be able to arrange for someone to visit and pray with you or give you details of healing services that are taking place.

Adapted from [www.churchinwales.org.uk](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk)





## TRINITY SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS...

We are reminded time and time again that God is good... .

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> God again showered us with His Grace and Blessings. It has been many years since we were last able to celebrate Trinity Sunday as a family of God. We were truly blessed at our Feast Day celebrations. Not only were we able to celebrate in the most glorious sunshine but we had the honour and privilege of celebrating with our Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Dino, and his wife Elizabeth.

As usual the chefs were tops and we were spoilt for choice with 22 dishes to choose from and enjoy. Thank you to those who shared their cooking talent and for their generous donation of the meal they cooked to feed the crowd of over 100!



## THE PEACE LAMP

*It is a custom in our Diocese and in this parish to light a Peace candle at the beginning of our services each week. Our candle changes from time to time and we have just replaced the old oil candle with the present one. Why have we done that?*

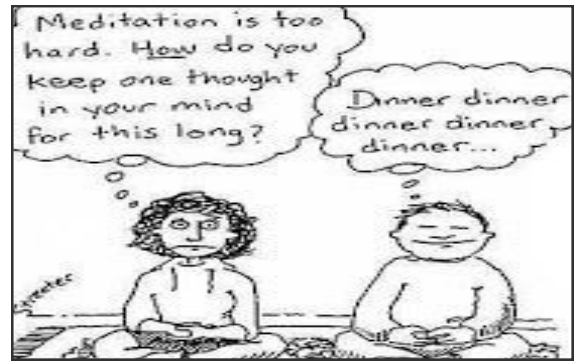
*The present oil candle has a disposable canister. It was donated by a parishioner who recently returned from a trip abroad. This candle encapsulates everything we use it for as our reminder for the things we pray for. Our prayer is a collect of hope for all the challenges we encounter in our everyday life. So the red represents the stranglehold we may feel by these challenges. But the use of red in the Church represents the Holy Spirit which is the sustaining power of God for God's people in the world. Our Peace Lamp is similar to the Aumbry Lamp used in churches with a Catholic or Orthodox tradition to signal the presence of Christ (Consecrated Bread and Wine) in the Aumbry.*

*So when we light our candle and offer the prayer at the beginning of the service we are asking for God's sustaining presence into our lives with all its challenges. It may be worthwhile to call to mind our life challenges as we pray for the Divine presence of the God, who made us and set us free from all our sins and remains present with us always, to come into that situation and transform it from the stranglehold to the glory of God.*



# Some Humour!

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## And food for thought!

*If the world is to be healed through human efforts,  
I am convinced that it will be by ordinary people. . .  
People whose love for life is even greater than their fear. Joanna Macy*



### PRAYER

Is when you talk to God;

### MEDITATION

Is when you listen to God.

When "I" is  
replaced by "we"  
even illness  
becomes  
wellness

## ACTS 2:38

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled to see an intruder there.

She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: 'Stop! Acts 2:38!' (Repent and be Baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar.  
"She said she had an Axe and Two 38s!"



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### Youth Worker

Althea Kroone 031 765 5942

### Parish Ministries:

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Environmental  
Evening Women's Gp  
Flowers  
Food Parcels  
Garden  
Hospital Visitors  
Lay Ministers  
Martha's Friends  
Morning Women's Gp  
Musicians  
Music Group  
Prayer Chain  
Publications  
Recorder  
Readers  
Sacristans  
Sides people  
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Rosemary Combes	031 762 1176
Ann Maud	031 765 2111
Ann Maud	031 765 2111
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Pat Dawson	031 765 8013
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