

## Opening Church for Private Prayer

Our church will be open for quiet, private prayer from **10am to 12pm on Sundays and Wednesdays starting Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**. Unfortunately, we cannot offer refreshments or toilet facilities. If you have significant health problems or any concerns, our advice would be to stay safe and stay at home. But if you wish to come into church for prayer, we look forward to seeing you. Precautions including hand sanitiser, social distancing and a one-way route through the church will be in place for your safety, but also for the safety of our volunteers who will be waiting to welcome you.

**Rev Karen Brady**

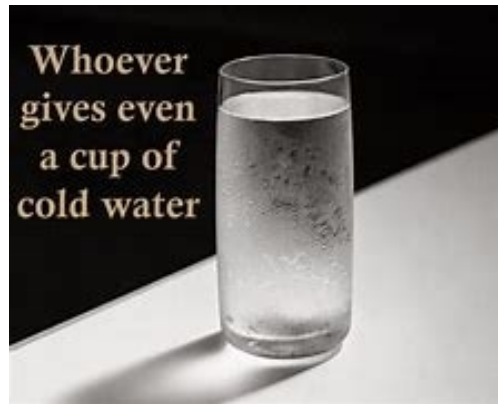
**Colin Keam**

**Rosemary Lunt Churchwardens**

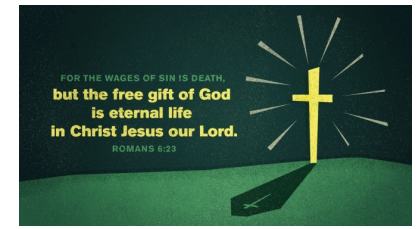
**Any queries please contact our  
Vicar: Rev Karen Brady  
on 07419820864  
or email [revkarenbrady@gmail.com](mailto:revkarenbrady@gmail.com)  
But not on a Friday**

**or the  
Church Mobile  
Bookings for baptisms and weddings  
Tel: 07722470940 and speak to  
Robbie**

**Church website  
[www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk](http://www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk)  
Facebook  
Saint Michael and All Angels Church, Runcorn**



**Parish Church of  
St Michael and All Angels  
Sunday 28th June 2020  
3rd Sunday after Trinity**



### Readings

Romans 6: 12-23

Matthew 10: 40-42

**A prayer for all those affected by  
coronavirus**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen

### Reflection for this week's readings

**28th June 2020**

#### **From slavery to freedom**

Read the Bible passages on the next page. Both readings describe some of our privileges as Christians. Read them again as messages to you personally. Give thanks.

**The first reading uses the analogy of slavery to help us understand the amazing change that Jesus has made in our lives. Think about what it means to be set free from sin.**

**Pray for those who are struggling with addictions.**

**Paul tells us that we can be slaves to sin or we can choose to obey God. Ask for God's help in making the right choices this week.**

**The second reading is the words of Jesus to his followers. He promises them, "Anyone who receives you receives me." That is a reminder that Jesus is with us in all our encounters with other people, and that we are ambassadors for him. Thank Jesus for this promise, and think prayerfully about what difference it might make in your relationships with other people this week.**

**Jesus speaks about small, practical acts of kindness, such as giving someone a cup of water. Pray for churches and charities that are helping other people in practical ways during the lockdown.**

## **Collect & Readings**

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Romans 6: 12-23**

<sup>12</sup> Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

<sup>13</sup> Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. <sup>14</sup> Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. <sup>15</sup> Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! <sup>16</sup> Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. <sup>17</sup> Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. <sup>18</sup> Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living. <sup>19</sup> Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to

help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy. <sup>20</sup> When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. <sup>21</sup> And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. <sup>22</sup> But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Matthew 10: 40-42**

<sup>40</sup> "Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me. <sup>41</sup> If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. <sup>42</sup> And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

## **PRAYERS DURING THE OUTBREAK**

### **For you to pray at home**

#### **For hospital staff and medical researchers**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### **A prayer of thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Lord our God.  
How sweet are your words to the taste,  
sweeter than honey to the mouth.  
How precious are your commands for our life,  
more than the finest gold in our hands.  
How marvellous is your will for the world,  
Unending is your love for the nations.  
Our voices shall sing of your promises  
and our lips declare your praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever.  
**Amen.**

#### **A prayer for the church**

May your love that never fails  
strengthen the weak  
encourage the fearful  
calm the anxious  
heal the sick  
through your church –  
your washed hands  
and feet on earth –  
distant but still present  
virtual but still connected  
apart but still helping.  
God in your mercy,  
hear our prayer. **AMEN**