



St John's Weekly News 28th February 2021

A message from Fr Christopher's desk.

This week we hear a very uncompromising and difficult message from Jesus: 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' As hard as the last year has been for us all, we have not had to give up our life for the sake of our faith. There are many around the world who daily risk their life by identifying as Christians, while also going through the Coronavirus like the rest of us. So, this week, if we are not called to die for our faith in this country, what might we be called to give up for the sake of Him and our brothers and sisters? Do we give to those without and to the church as a priority, or just our loose change? When we pass a beggar, do we sit down with him or her and ask how their day was, or do we look the other way, because we have somewhere to be?

Our faith in Jesus requires us to look deep into our hearts and think about whether we would risk everything for Him. And the very least we can do is risk people thinking us different from the rest of the world in the way we put others before ourselves - really put them before ourselves, not just give them our leftovers.

Fr Christopher

GOSPEL Mark 8

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



Sometimes things don't go, after all,
from bad to worse. Some years, muscadell
faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail,
sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

People sometimes will step back from war;
elect an honest man, decide they care
enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.
Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best efforts do not go
amiss, sometimes we do as we meant to.
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow
that seemed hard frozen: may it happen for you.

40 BIBLE VERSES

On GIVING UP

1 Corinthians 15:58	Joshua 1:9
1 Corinthians 16:13	Luke 6:38
1 Corinthians 9:24	Malachi 3:10
2 Chronicles 15:7	Mark 10:27
2 Corinthians 8:12	Matthew 11:28
2 Corinthians 9:10	Matthew 18:12
2 Corinthians 9:11	Matthew 6:21
2 Corinthians 9:7	Philippians 1:6
2 Timothy 1:7	Philippians 3:14
2 Timothy 4:7	Philippians 4:13
Acts 20:35	Proverbs 24:16
Deuteronomy 31:6	Psalms 1:1
Deuteronomy 31:8	Psalms 31:24
Galatians 6:9	Psalms 37:24
Hebrews 13:5	Psalms 37:4
Isaiah 41:10	Psalms 46:1
James 1:17	Psalms 55:22
Jeremiah 29:11	Romans 5:5
John 3:16	Romans 7:24
John 8:44	Romans 8:28

PRAYERS

Jesus Christ intercedes for us at all times. Together let us remember and pray to God through Christ.

For the church universal, that the fasting of these forty days may clear away much that is needless and so open our eyes to the bright glory of the cross.

For all the children of Abraham and Sarah, that we might find blessing and see our common inheritance as God's beloved.

For all who suffer in conflict, that God in mercy may turn our hearts toward one another and bring us to end our faithless reliance on weapons and violence.

For all who have sought our prayers.

For prisoners and all who are bound in body, mind, or spirit, that they may be delivered from their bondage.

For ourselves, for all who hear these prayers, that we may walk in Jesus' path.

For all who have died, that they be at peace.

God, whose ways are beyond our knowing or approving, place the world's troubles ever in our plain sight, and be yourself in our seeing and in our praying.

We ask this always through Christ our Lord.

Amen



This week please pray for: Jean, Linda, Wayne, all those celebrating their birthdays this week and everyone living on Conisborough Crescent.