



# **St John's Weekly News**

## **7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**A message from Fr Christopher's desk.**

**This week's gospel is Jesus's Cleansing of the Temple, as it's become known, when he drove out the money changers. We will be thinking about what is holy to us, in the way the Temple obviously was to Jesus. The things we think of as holy, whether the church itself, the altar, the silver we use, or even the special vestments I wear during Mass, all help to lift our minds and hearts to higher things. That's the idea at least, as we prepare to welcome Christ into our bodies by receiving Communion. But we also recognise each other as holy, and we are particularly called to welcome those in need into our lives and into our church. The food bank is going from strength to strength here, as we share what we have with those who might be struggling at the moment, and in welcoming them into our building, many of whom have never been inside before, we welcome Christ just as we also receive Him at Mass.**

**I pray every day for the time when we can all be together again, and that you stay well as we wait for the lockdown to be lifted, step by step.**

**God bless you,**

**Fr Christopher.**

### **Gospel John 2 13-22**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." They then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.



*"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better.*

*The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."*

*Theodore Roosevelt, 1910*

## Our God of Hope

There is a God whose light shines in every darkness

There is a God who hears every lament

There is a God who transforms even the deepest grief

Therefore you have hope:

You shall sing again, but with a different tune

You shall dance again, but with a different step

You shall laugh again, but with a different breath

Not yet, but one day,

For there is a God who heals your wound with the gentlest hand.

## Prayer for help.

*O God, I bring this situation to you and hold it to you, refusing to let it get away from you, believing that by your grace, in answer to my prayer it will change, that something will turn up...*

*Something that was not there before, that the mountain of difficulty, will be removed...*

*Or your wisdom show me the way to go round...*

*or your grace strengthen me to climb over it...*

*or tunnel through it. Let me hold on in faith and love, O Lord my God. AMEN.*



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

## Action for the Week.

Ephesians 4: 26-27

Be angry and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.



CHURCH IS REOPENING ON PALM SUNDAY.



Join us at 10.30am in church.

Doors open from 10.00am