

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter 24 May 2020

Greed

Many years ago, the story goes that a San Diego bank hired a private investigator to track down a bank robber and retrieve the stolen funds. The search led to Mexico. The investigator crossed the border but then realised he would need a Spanish interpreter. He hired the first interpreter he could find.

After many days, he finally captured the thief and through the interpreter asked him where he had hidden the money. The thief replied in Spanish, 'What money? I have no idea what you are talking about.' The interpreter conveys his answer to the investigator.

With that, the investigator drew his pistol, pointed it at the head of the suspect, and said to the interpreter, 'Tell him that if he doesn't tell me where the money is, I will shoot him in the head.'

The interpreter conveys this message to the thief, who quickly replies, 'Senor, I have hidden the money in a can, under the fourth floor-board, in the second-floor men's room of the Palacio Hotel on Via Del Rio in La Paz.'

The investigator asks the interpreter, 'What did he say?' The interpreter reflects on the information he has just received and then replies, 'Senor, he says he is prepared to die like a man!'

In this morning's YouTube homily, I have made the point that over the last fifty years we have seen a move towards a focus on materialism and self. The extreme of this preoccupation can be defined as greed, and the problem with greed is that invariably it is accompanied by a loss of integrity.

I believe we are seeing a realignment of our values at the moment, especially with regards kindness and compassion. I do hope that with less emphasis on materialism and self we will also see the values of integrity and honesty play a more prominent role in our dealings with one another.

'Fix your thoughts on what is true and honourable and right.' Philippians 4:8b

Back to Church

We are waiting to hear from the Government on Monday as to whether restrictions on groups gathering will be lifted, and if so, by how much. At this stage, there is an indication that this might be done incrementally. This could mean that the following Sunday we could meet in a group of 20, the Sunday after that 30, and so on.

We have a vestry meeting on Monday to discuss the implications of whatever is announced and to plan a way forward. If we do decide to hold a service on Sunday 31st, I will send something out early Tuesday morning. I would have to say, that if the ruling is a limit of 20, that would hardly be practical or make for a meaningful service of worship.

Word for Today

Still has not arrived. I have tried ringing Rhema Media but no response.

Survey

The following link is a Church Life survey assessing church members' experience during lockdown, in particular the effectiveness of online services and other support. This has come from the Bishop's office and I would be grateful if you could take a minute to fill it in.

<https://infoweb.nz/form/clsnz-communicating-in-lockdown>

Time for a Smile

'My wife's just gone to the West Indies for a holiday.'

'Jamaica?'

'No, she went of her own accord.'

'Where's your wife going on holiday this year?'

'Alaska.'

'No, don't bother. I just thought you'd know.'



Thanks to Stephen Illich (See Genesis 6-8)

05-19-2005

WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES
THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS

YouTube clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcxSKeTq9pM>

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