

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter June 2021

Forgiveness

From the Middle Ages comes this legend about a nun who claimed that she had a vision of Christ. The bishop asked her, 'Sister, did you talk to him?' And she said, 'Yes, I did.' He continued, 'If you have another vision, ask Christ this question: "What was the bishop's great sin before he became a bishop?"' He knew that only God and his confessor would know. About three months later, the nun made an appointment to see the bishop. When she came in, he asked her, 'Did you see our Lord again?' 'Yes,' she replied. 'Did you ask him the question about my sin?' 'Yes, I did.' 'And what did he say?' She smiled and answered, 'The Lord said, "I don't remember anymore."'

I love this story, on two levels. On the surface, the nun could be a very clever person with a delightful sense of humour. On a much deeper level, it makes a strong statement about forgiveness. How often do we continue to beat ourselves up over a transgression when, having handed it over to God, we should be able to move on? Once we have unburdened ourselves to God, it is done and dusted; we are cleansed and it is all about new beginnings. Fortunately, God doesn't buy in to that very human foible of storing something away in order to use against us at a later date.

'I alone am the one who blots out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.' Isaiah 43:25

'And I will forgive their wrongdoings, and I will never again remember their sins.'
Hebrews 8:12

Fundraising

Fundraising for our new church and community centre has gained considerable momentum in the last two weeks with meetings taking place with potential donors. Just a reminder that if you would like to contribute, the bank account number is 06 0991 0056055 01. Please ensure you include your name in Reference.

Hamper

Speaking of fundraising, we are putting together a His/Hers beauty hamper which will be raffled in a few weeks. If you would like to contribute to the hamper. Please drop off your offering at church.

Time for a Smile

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by USA Air Force pilots and the replies from the maintenance crew.

Problem: 'Evidence of hydraulic leak on right main landing gear.'

Solution: 'Evidence removed.'

Problem: 'Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.'

Solution: 'That's what they are there for.'

Problem: 'IFF inoperative.'

Solution: 'IFF in OFF mode.'

Problem: 'Test flight ok, except autoland very rough.'

Solution: 'Autoland not installed in this aircraft.'

Attending Church

Some advice on attending church from an 8-year-old. 'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God.'

I am expecting a tremendous turnout this Sunday!



To Ponder

'Never does the human soul appear so strong and noble as when it forgoes revenge and dares to forgive.' Edward Chapin

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