

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter 18 October 2021

A duke once boarded a galley ship and went below to talk to the convicts manning the oars. When he asked several of them what their crimes were, almost every man claimed to be innocent, blaming someone else, or even accused the judge of taking a bribe.

There was one young man whose reply was different. He said, 'I deserve to be here, sir. I stole some money. No one is at fault but me. I am guilty.'

When the duke heard this, he shouted, 'You scoundrel! What are you doing here amongst all these honest men? Get out of their company at once!' The duke ordered the young prisoner to be released.

So the young man was set free, while the rest of the prisoners were left to tug on the oars. The key to his freedom was his admission of guilt.

Confession leads to absolution. Absolution can come from God or it can come from our fellow citizen whom we have hurt. Absolution sets us free; it releases the burden of guilt. It is so very important that we acknowledge our mistakes, our wrongdoings. It's not always easy to do, but in terms of moving forward, it is crucial.

'If we confess our sins to God, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and will purify us from all our wrongdoings.' 1 John 1:9

Finances

This has certainly been a challenging year and this is reflected in our financial situation – we are running at a deficit of approx. \$3,000. As we are unable to congregate on Sundays, a reminder that online banking is available. Bank account number is 06 0991 0056055 00. We are still committed to most of the expenses associated with the running of our church.

Phrase Origins

'Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.'

Meaning: Don't get rid of valuable things along with the unnecessary ones.

Origin: In the early 1500s, people bathed only once a year! They bathed in the same water – adult males first, then the females, children and babies last. By the time the babies got in, the water was decidedly murky. The poor mothers had to take care that their babies weren't thrown out with the bathwater!

'Kiss of life.'

Origin: thought to have entered English as an opposite to Judas' treacherous 'kiss of death' to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. It has been used in Britain since early 1960s as a term for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but as a phrase and as an action, it is falling out of favour. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation can go horribly wrong, with patients coughing up blood and vomiting.

In one famous incident from the 1970s, a British man almost died from a disease he caught when he gave the kiss of life to his dead parrot!

Time for a Smile

A man is up in court for embezzlement and spends his entire trial desperately protesting his innocence. Eventually, the jury finds him 'not guilty.' He turns to the judge with a look of relief and joy. 'Thank you so much, your honour,' he says. 'So does this mean I can keep the money?'



To Ponder

'Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.' Dalai Lama

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