

The Benefice of Glastonbury with Meare

Holding on to the Silence 2018

Weekly Collects and Daily Readings from Sunday 30 December to Saturday 12 January

Collect for Sunday 30 December – Saturday 5 January

Mighty God, most holy and most humble, you have chosen to hear our cry and share our poverty. Come close to our world, kindle our hearts and melt our despair, that with all your creatures we may live in hope; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Collect for Sunday 6 – Saturday 11 January

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Daily Readings:

Today we resume our journey through Mark's Gospel

Sunday 30 December

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. *Mark 7.31-32*

God has spoken through a Son. He has called us all to become children at the cradle of the Son, the Word made flesh, so that we may grow into a glory that even the angels wonder at. *The Rt Revd. Rowan Williams*

New Year's Eve - Monday 31 December

He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. *Mark 7.33-35*

I said to the man at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than any light and safer than a known way." *Marie Louise Haskins, quoted by King George V in his 1939 Christmas speech*

Thursday 10 January

And the man looked up and said, 'I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.' Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, 'Do not even go into the village.' *Mark 8.24-26*

Most theists are deists most of the time, in practice if not in theory. They practice the absence of God instead of the presence of God. *Peter Kreeft*

Friday 11 January

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' *Mark 8.27-28*

The main fruit of enjoyable, beneficial church ritual should be in the lives of the people attending it. *Rev Van de Veyer*

Saturday 12 January

He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. *Mark 8.29-30*

You can't forgive without loving. And I don't mean sentimentality; I don't mean mush. I mean having enough courage to stand up and say, "I forgive, I'm finished with it." *Maya Angelou*

You can also find copies of the Daily Office and suggested readings on St John's website under 'LatestNews'

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New Year's Day - Tuesday 1 January

Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.' *Mark 7.36-37*

I have consciously sought during my life to emulate my mother, whom our family knew as a gentle "comforter of the afflicted." However, when I see innocent people suffering, pushed around by the rich and powerful, then, as the prophet Jeremiah says, if I try to keep quiet it is as if the word of God burned like a fire in my breast. I feel compelled to speak out, sometimes even argue with God over how a loving creator can allow this to happen. *Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

Wednesday 2 January

In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat.' *Mark 8.1-2*

The quality of life is in proportion, always, to the capacity for delight. The capacity for delight is the gift of paying attention. *The Artist Way*

Thursday 3 January

If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way—and some of them have come from a great distance.' His disciples replied, 'How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?' He asked them, 'How many loaves do you have?' They said, 'Seven.' *Mark 8.3-5*

Community is not about emotional harmony but forgiveness and celebration. *Henri Nouwen*

Friday 4 January

They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Now there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha. *Mark 8.8-10*

If you treat a person as she appears to be, you make her worse than she is. But if you treat a person as if she already were what she potentially could be, you make her what she should be. *Goethe*

Saturday 5 January

The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, 'Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.' And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side. *Mark 8.11-13*

In this teaching from the Gospel of Thomas, which is a very early text in Christianity, Christ is to be found everywhere,

even under a stone, even in the splitting of wood. This is another teaching of the Cosmic Christ ---- that is, Christ as

the "light present in all beings" and in all energy and activity in the universe. This speaks of an intimate presence as well as an omnipresence. *Matthew Fox*

EPIPHANY - Sunday 6 January

Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And he cautioned them, saying, 'Watch out—beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.' ¹⁶They said to one another, 'It is because we have no bread.' *Mark 8.14-16*

We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely acknowledge the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty. *Maya Angelou*

Monday 7 January

And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, 'Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember?' *Mark 8.17-18*

Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret. *Ambrose Bierce*

Tuesday 8 January

When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?' They said to him, 'Twelve.' 'And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?' And they said to him, 'Seven.' Then he said to them, 'Do you not yet understand?' *Mark 8.19-21*

If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forwards, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is to be present in the present – gratefully. *Maya Angelou*

Wednesday 9 January

They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, 'Can you see anything?' *Mark 8.22-23*

My responsibility is always and everywhere the same: to see in my brother more even than the personality and the manhood that are his. My task is always and everywhere the same: to see Christ himself. *Trevor Huddleston*