



Week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
The Third Sunday after Trinity

### Reflection

The gospel reading for this Sunday emphasises the importance of welcome. This week, as we celebrated the birth of St John the Baptist, we welcomed people into our church building a number of people took the opportunity to come and pray quietly and privately on Wednesday. The Old Testament reading is the well-known story of Abraham being asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac. It is a disturbing read. It resonates with us as Christians because it foreshadows the sacrifice of Christ. Abraham is a very problematic character. Not only was he prepared to murder his child but while in Egypt he pretended his wife was his sister when he noticed Pharaoh had taken a shine to her and he abandoned the mother of his first child along with her son to the mercies of the desert. He is a deeply flawed human being. And yet God chooses him. In our culture, we are used to people being chosen because of some special attribute or skill. We are selected for jobs in competitive interviews, we watch reality TV talent shows or professional sport which reinforces the idea of selection and deserving winners. In God's kingdom, these things don't seem to matter. Pick any person from scripture who is chosen by God for a special task and you'll see time and again, there appears to be no rhyme or reason. God chooses us. God welcomes us into God's kingdom. We don't have to qualify, we don't have to earn it, we certainly don't deserve it.

The second remarkable thing about the story of Abraham and Isaac is that God's command seems utterly bonkers. God promises Abraham that he will be the ancestor of a great nation more numerous than the stars and then tells him to kill his heir. God asks us to do things from time to time that seem to make no sense. But that is often because we don't see the bigger picture. We don't notice the ram in the thicket straight away. Abraham trusts God.

In these strange times we live in, it feels sometimes as though God is asking us to do peculiar things. And sometimes they feel costly. One of the challenges we face in the coming week is whether we open for worship. The kind of worship that we might be able to offer won't be the kind of worship that we have missed and are looking forward to again. Is something better than nothing or is nothing better than a painful compromise? In situations like this, we have to listen to what we think God is asking of us.

June is LGBTQ+ Pride month. The weekend closest to the 28<sup>th</sup> June, the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, has always been the date for the annual Pride marches around the world. God seems to be challenging all of us at the moment to think carefully about how we exclude people. Black Lives Matter has drawn attention to racism. Now is as good a time as any to reflect on the welcome and hospitality that we offer as a church. How inclusive are we?

During my week off, we had a virtual Clergy Gathering. Bishop David reminded all of us of Christ's teaching in the sermon on the mount: seek first the kingdom of God.

As we make some really difficult decisions in the next few days and weeks, it will be important to keep that at the forefront of our minds. Seek first the kingdom of God. What does God call us to be and to do in this bit of Lincoln. It might seem counterintuitive. It might be hard work. It might not be what we were expecting. In the words of the post-communion prayer for this week, 'O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend...' If it comes from God, it will be so much better and more than we could ever have anticipated.

Collect

Almighty God,  
 you have broken the tyranny of sin  
 and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
 whereby we call you Father:  
 give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
 that we and all creation may be brought  
 to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining  
 and whose power we cannot comprehend:  
 show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,  
 and shield us from knowing more than we can bear  
 until we may look upon you without fear;  
 through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

<b>Readings for today</b> Genesis 22: 1 – 14 Psalm 13 Romans 6: 12 – end Matthew 10: 40 – end	<b>Readings next Sunday</b> Genesis 24: 34 – 38, 42 – 49 Psalm 45: 10 – end Romans 7: 15 – 25a Matthew 11: 16 – 19,25 - end
---	---

**Coming up this week:**

This Sunday	10:00am	Parish Eucharist IN THE VICARAGE
Monday to Saturday	9.00am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer

## PRAYER THIS WEEK

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
<p>Third Sunday after Trinity</p>	<p><b>St Francis School</b> Ann Hoffmann (head), staff, pupils and governors Residents of: Greyling View, Hackthorn Place, Hardwick Place, Harmston Close</p>	<p>From the Gospel reading: <b>Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. (Matt 10:40)</b></p> <p>Pray for the united Church of North India</p> <p>The Most Revd Dr Prem Chand Singh - Moderator of CNI &amp; Bishop of Jabalpur</p>
<p>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June <b>Peter and Paul Apostles</b></p>	<p><b>Ermine Primary Academy</b> David Manby (head), staff, pupils and governors Residents of: Harpswell Road, Hatcliffe Gardens, Hawkshead Grove, Haydor Avenue</p>	<p><b>For our Assistant Bishops working across the Diocese</b></p> <p>North Dakota (USA) The Rt Revd Michael Smith; Athabasca (Canada) The Rt Revd Fraser Lawton; Juba (South Sudan) The Most Revd Justin Badi Arama</p>
<p>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June</p>	<p><b>Ermine Music</b> Annie Griffin, musical director of Ermine Music Residents of: Ingleby Crescent, Jesmond View, Keddington Avenue, Kershaw View</p>	<p><b>For all working in the tourism industry across the Diocese</b></p> <p>North East India (North India) The Rt Revd Michael Herenz; Atlanta (USA) The Rt Revd Robert Wright; Kabba (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Steven Akobe</p>
<p>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July <b>Henry, John and Henry Venn,</b> priests, evangelical divines 1797, 1813, 1873</p>	<p><b>Ruckland Court; Lincoln Cathedral Quarry workers</b> Residents of: Langdale Close, Langton Close, Laughton Crescent, Laughton Way</p>	<p><b>The Deanery of Louthesk.</b> – Rural Dean: The Revd Canon Nick Brown, Lay Chair: Dr Paul Hill</p> <p><b>Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees</b></p> <p>North Eastern Caribbean &amp; Aruba (West Indies) The Rt Revd L. Errol Brooks Attooch (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Moses Anur Ayom</p>
<p>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</p>	<p><b>Ermine Community Action Group</b> Residents of: Laughton Way North, Lenton Gardens, Lenton Green, Manton Road, Mason Close, Midville Close</p>	<p><b>Church Schools in the Louthesk Deanery</b></p> <p>Binbrook, Legbourne East Wold, Louth St Michael's, North Cockerington, North Somercotes, Withern St Margaret's</p> <p>North Karamoja (Uganda) The Rt Revd James Nasak</p> <p>Auckland (Aotearoa NZ &amp; Polynesia) The Rt Revd Ross Bay</p> <p>Magwi (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Ogeno Charles Opoka</p>

<p>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July <b>Thomas the Apostle</b></p>	<p><b>Housebound communicants</b> Residents of: Millbeck Road, Minting Close, Moorby Close, Natal View</p>	<p><b>The Binbrook Group – Binbrooke, Swinhope, Thorganby, Kelstern w Calcethorpe, Wold Newton w Hawerby-cum-Beesby, Ludford Magna w Ludford Pava -</b> Revd Patrick McEune</p> <p>North Kigezi (Uganda) The Rt Revd Benon Magezi</p> <p>Aweil (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Abraham Yel Nhial</p>
<p>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July</p>	<p><b>Health care services; Social Workers</b> Residents of: Nene Road, Nocton Drive, Oxen Park Close, Pietermaritz Street, Pietermaritz View</p>	<p><b>The Fotherby Group - Covenham, Fulstow, Ludborough, Fotherby, Utterby, Little Grimsby (Plurality with Somercotes etc) –</b> In Vacancy</p> <p><b>For all ordinands who will today be licensed as Lay Workers pending a service of ordination at a later date: Jane Foster-Smith, Lynne Hawkins, Liz Johnson, Kath Pickering. Jon Speirs-Davies, Teena Twelves, Michelle Webb, Ross Copley, Helen Eke, Lisa Hughes, Barbara Manterfield, Julie Miles, Lynne Smith</b></p> <p>North Mbale (Uganda) The Rt Revd Samuel Gidudu</p> <p>Awerial (South Sudan) The Rt Revd David Akau Kuol Mayom</p> <p>Kadugli &amp; Nuba Mountains (Sudan) The Rt Revd Andudu Adam Elnail</p>

The Diocesan Prayer Calendar can be downloaded from the website:  
<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/sharing-in-prayer>

<p><b>Give thanks for:</b></p>	<p>The chance to open our doors and be a place of welcome</p>
<p><b>Special prayers this week for:</b></p>	<p>LGBTQ+ community as we come to the end of PRIDE month.</p>
<p><b>People in need:</b></p>	<p>Clive Seabury, Dave Notman,</p>
<p><b>Rest in peace:</b></p>	<p>George William Arthur (John) Smith</p>

Revd Rachel can be contacted Saturday – Thursday  
on 07813 617977  
e-mail: [revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk)  
Web site: [www.stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk)  
Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Revd Rachel  
*no later than Wednesday evening.*  
If you would like to receive this weekly sheet by email, please e-mail  
[revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk) or speak to a churchward