

**Topic: Monday afternoon Lent Group**  
**Time: 2pm**

**Meeting ID: 880 3265 9720**  
**Passcode: 627678**

**Topic: Friday evening Lent Group**  
**Time: 7pm**

**Meeting ID: 840 6254 9454**  
**Passcode: 205705**

**Topic: Sunday afternoon Lent Group**  
**Time: 2pm**

**Meeting ID: 884 7894 5665**  
**Passcode: 045225**

# Beatitudes

**BEATITUDES**  
FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS</p> <p>FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED</p> <p>FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS</p> <p>FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS</p> <p>FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS</p> <p>FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS</p>
<p>BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS</p> <p>FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS</p> <p>FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS</p> <p>FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS, THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS</p> <p>FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.</p> <p>FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE</p>
<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.</p> <p>FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED,</p> <p>FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS</p> <p>FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS: ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY</p> <p>MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN</p>	

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI CartoonChurch.com

Lent groups this year will take place on Zoom and will focus on The Beatitudes as a tool for thinking about all that we have been travelling through, and the Christian vision for the world going forward.

For Zoom links see our website / emailed details

Monday afternoon 2pm from 22 Feb

Friday evening 7pm from 26th Feb

Sunday afternoon 2pm from 28th Feb

*All Welcome!*

# The Team Parish of Christ The King

Acting Team Rector: Revd Dr Pauline Pearson 07753744349

[vicarofstcolumbawideopen@gmail.com](mailto:vicarofstcolumbawideopen@gmail.com)

Team Vicar: Revd Mark Edwards MBE 01661 872320

[haydenfox9411@gmail.com](mailto:haydenfox9411@gmail.com)

Assistant Curate (Great Park): Revd Ruth Hewett 217 0367

[\\_ruthhewett@icloud.com](mailto:_ruthhewett@icloud.com)

*St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle*

[www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk](http://www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk)

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan

0797720895 [brpullan@gmail.com](mailto:brpullan@gmail.com)

*St Columba's Church Wideopen*

[www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)

Honorary Assistant Priest: Fr. Bill Miller Tel 236 5024

*St Cuthberts Brunswick Village*

[www.stcuthbertsbrunswick.co.uk](http://www.stcuthbertsbrunswick.co.uk)

*St Matthew's Dinnington*

[www.stmatthewsdinnington.org.uk](http://www.stmatthewsdinnington.org.uk)

*Church in the Park*

[www.churchinthepark.org.uk](http://www.churchinthepark.org.uk)

the sight of God; to those who are merciful, mercy for themselves.

*For discussion*

Look at all of the Beatitudes and go through the text and identify the three-fold pattern of blessing, vocation and promise in each beatitude.

Put in your own words what you think 'poor in spirit' might mean and share examples of when you have seen this in others or even known it in yourself.

What difference would being poor in spirit make to one or more of the following:

Your relationship with those you love most?

Your relationship with colleagues and friends?

The way you pray and the things you might ask for?

Your priorities now, especially as we emerge from the pandemic?

### **Closing prayer**

Jesus Lord of time

**Hold us in your eternity**

Jesus, image of God

**Travel with us in the life of faith**

Jesus, friend of sinners

**Heal the brokenness of our world**

Jesus Lord of tomorrow

**Draw us into your future. Amen**

### **Week One:**

We are living through extraordinary times – times when we have had a lot of time for reflection.. times when we have been walking through difficult terrain, and when many have felt cut off from each other and from our church family.. But now, as there are signs of hope on the horizon, it seems appropriate to look at this core text for the Christian journey and use it as a tool for thinking about all that we have been travelling through, and the Christian vision for the world going forward.

### **Opening Prayers**

Generous God, help me to live as a child of your kingdom

**Give me the mind of Christ.**

**Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.**

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' MATTHEW 5.3–10

**God of our days and years  
We set this time apart for you.  
Form us in the likeness of Christ  
So that we may learn of your love  
And that our lives may give you glory.  
Amen.**

### *Conversation*

Be honest. When you think of the Beatitudes, or read them for the first time, what do you think? What makes sense about them, and what doesn't?

### *Reflecting on Scripture*

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. MARK 7.24–30

- Read the passage through once
- Keep a few moments' silence
- Read the passage a second time with different voices
- Invite everyone to say aloud a word or phrase that strikes them
- Read the passage a third time
- Share together what this word or phrase might mean and what questions it raises.

In his book on the Beatitudes, *Living Well*, Robert Warren identifies a crafted three-fold pattern to each of the eight sayings. Each beatitude begins with **an announcement of God's blessing**. This is one of the main points of Christ's teaching: God wishes to bless us. He pours his love and affirmation upon us. And we are particularly blessed when we live Christ-like lives. Having announced the blessing, Jesus then describes a characteristic that could be referred to as **a vocation**, something that listeners are being asked to emulate or nurture in themselves, such as poverty of spirit or meekness of heart. Then there is **a promise**: this is what the person who lives by this vocation will receive. For the first and last beatitude it is nothing less than the kingdom of God itself. Those who are poor in Spirit and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake are told that 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. For the other beatitudes some aspect of the kingdom is given: to those who mourn, the strength to persevere; to those who are pure in heart,