

Topic: Monday afternoon Lent Group
Time: 2pm

Meeting ID: 880 3265 9720
Passcode: 627678

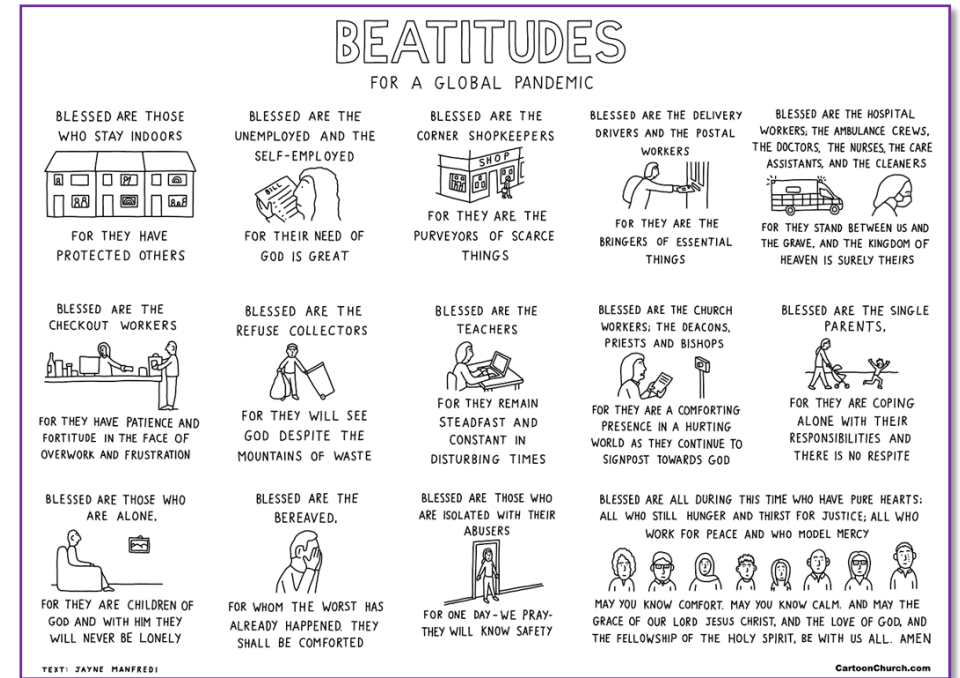
Topic: Friday evening Lent Group
Time: 7pm

Meeting ID: 840 6254 9454
Passcode: 205705

Topic: Sunday afternoon Lent Group
Time: 2pm

Meeting ID: 884 7894 5665
Passcode: 045225

Beatitudes 3



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

Team Vicar: Revd Mark Edwards MBE 01661 872320

haydenfox9411@gmail.com

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

_ruthhewett@icloud.com

St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle

www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan

0797720895 brpullan@gmail.com

St Columba's Church Wideopen

www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk

Honorary Assistant Priest: Fr. Bill Miller Tel 236 5024

St Cuthberts Brunswick Village

www.stcuthbertsbrunswick.co.uk

St Matthew's Dinnington

www.stmatthewsdinnington.org.uk

Church in the Park

www.churchinthepark.org.uk

would they be?

There are things we can all do in our service of others that interrupt our tendency to self obsession and open us up to God. In the medieval church, drawing on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25.34-46, Christians identified 'seven corporal acts of mercy' as an antidote to the seven deadly sins.

For discussion

- We are quick to condemn the poison of privilege when we see it in politicians and others. But what do we use to reinforce our own status and comfort?
- What would be today's list of 'seven corporal acts of mercy'?

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

Holiness consists simply in doing the will of God and being just what God wants us to be

THERESE OF LISIEUX (1873-97)

good side to pride; for example taking pride in one's appearance. Not to do so might be a sign of poor self esteem. But pride becomes deadly when it leads us to think that we are better than others and always right. The sin of greed alerts us to the danger of never being content. We fail to recognise the good things we enjoy, and when we get what we are aiming for we don't get happier, we just want more. [but will that be true as we emerge from COVID?]. Then there is lust (the sin everyone remembers), sloth (the one everyone forgets) and gluttony (the one we all enjoy). Finally this ancient wisdom names two things that can be particularly destructive: anger and envy.

We call them 'deadly sins' but they are better termed 'deadly motives'. Taken together they form a guide to help us untangle our desires. They help us identify the good from the not so good, and to spot what is destructive before too much damage is done. Why do we do the things that we do? What is driving us? These are questions we each need to wrestle with if we are to grow in personal integrity and live transparently.

For discussion

- ◇ Jesus' call for purity of heart provokes questions about personal integrity. Are there issues I'm not facing? Am I living in accord with my conscience? How transparent am I in my dealings with others?
- ◇ If you were to list today's 'seven deadly sins', what

Week Three

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

We are halfway through the Beatitudes. Why do you think they are so puzzling or difficult? Have our explorations so

far changed or influenced the way you react or behave in daily life?

Matthew 18.23-35

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow-servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow-servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow-servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay

back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

- 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.

Reflection: Blessed are the pure in heart—Robert Atwell

Over the centuries the Church has identified certain ways of behaving that are destructive. There are things that we all do which not only diminish others but which harm us in the process. Ultimately, if we get locked into acting in these ways we end up destroying relationships. Its why they are called ‘deadly sins’. The term comes from the bible. The first letter of St John speaks of ‘the sin that is deadly’ (1 John 5.16-18).

Traditionally, there are seven deadly sins. Pride has always been considered the first and worst sin. Its said that it was pride that prompted Adam to disobey God and pick ‘the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil’. There is a