

**St Matthias & St George Parish Church.**  
**A member of “Christ the King” team ministry.**  
**Week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020, 2nd Sunday after Trinity**

“Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 10 v 39

**Fr Glenn Reading – Team Vicar**  
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**We pray for those who are sick:** - Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret, Margaret, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi (Naomi is Paul & Diane Harrison’s daughter and Jon their son-in-law), Pastor Robin Baker, Colin, and Steven Taylor.

**Foodbanks:** *As more and more companies announce redundancies we can expect foodbanks to be under increasing pressure to provide food and other everyday items for increasing numbers of people. If you can, please support foodbanks during this time of considerable anxiety for many. Please leave any food or toiletry donations on the Vicarage doorstep. Glenn will then take them to Newstart in Bromsgrove which is still operating for vulnerable families.*

**We give thanks** for a week when no further Covid deaths have been reported in Worcester Acute Hospitals for 7 days in a row (as at June 17<sup>th</sup>, Courtesy of Redditch Advertiser). We pray that those currently in hospitals and suffering from Covid 19 will recover.

We pray for the souls of all those who have died and mourn with their relatives and friends. We also give thanks to all the wonderful people who cared for them in hospital and have also cared for those who have recovered and gone home.

**Prayer Chain:** If you have someone you wish to be prayed for, please contact Pauline Jones on 892650 who will then contact other members of the Prayer Group.

**Stamps:** It will soon be Christmas time! (No, no, it’s a Joke!!) In fact we’ve got a long way to go until Christmas, so this is just a reminder to squirrel away those stamps we occasionally find on letters and cards so that we can give them to Pam Emery who collects them for a charity.

**Today’s homily:** Do read it as it’s quite prescient of our times.

Please give notices for inclusion in next week’s edition to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at [richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk) Log onto our website for more information [www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk)

**Our Website:** Do go onto our website [www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk) and under Virtual Church click on ‘Prayers and Scripture in Times of Anxiety’ to see the material that Mother Victoria has uploaded to help us through the lockdown period. *The website also contains children’s activities; just go to Sunday Stars and you’ll find them there along with a weekly letter from Irene.* (I might add that the letter is also suitable for us grown-ups!)

**This Sunday** Glenn will again be holding Morning Prayer online at 10.30 am with Victoria continuing to live-stream Compline each evening at 9 pm. Go to the Church website, click on and go to Virtual Church. *If you’d like to watch Reverend Ruth saying Methodist Evening Prayer at 7pm Monday to Friday, then go onto the Bridge Church website and click on Virtual Church.*

**Father's Day** is celebrated on the third Sunday in June in the UK, US, Japan and many countries in Europe. In many other countries, however, it is celebrated on 19th March which is St. Joseph's day, In Scandinavia it is celebrated on the second Sunday in November and in Thailand December 5th is chosen, being the King's birthday.

Father's Day was founded in Spokane, Washington, United States, in 1910 at the YMCA by Sonora Smart Dodd. She was born in Arkansas and wanted to honour her father, William Jackson Smart, the Civil War veteran who was a single parent and raised his six children there.

Here are a couple of prayers you may wish to reflect on today and during this week.

*Heavenly Father, we remember fathers who rejoice in the achievements of their children. Who joyfully watch a new generation grow. We remember fathers who are single parents, who through personal sacrifice and perseverance provide a loving home for their children.*

For all who have warm and loving relationships with their fathers and children, we give thanks. For those who, for whatever reason, did not know their fathers, we realise that this can be an uncomfortable day for them. And for those whose relationships with their fathers or children is painful or complicated, we offer up our support in prayer. This Father's Day, we lift up our gratitude for all kinds of fathers, and for the amazing ways fatherly love transcends blood lines and legal categories.

