

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm
Tuesday Friendship Group meet @ 10am
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6.30am
Thursday Revd Josie at church @ 10am
Sat 16/9 Stall Holders meeting @ 9am
Travel Talks @ 10am

FATHER'S DAY – let's celebrate all the father figures in our lives and give thanks for the love and care they've given to us over the years.

STALL HOLDERS – the Christmas Fair is fast approaching on Saturday 4th November at 8am. So, we're having a stall holder's meeting on Saturday 16th September at 9am for everyone to be able to discuss anything they would like to bring up.

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT – will be Travel Talks on Saturday 16th September at 10am. We're going to have 3 people offering 3 talks about 3 different countries. At the moment we have Phil chatting about Darjeeling, India there is a lot more to the area than tea; Liz chatting about Africa – she's been to lots of countries; the Rev Josie chatting about Gloucester Cathedral in England, it has a very interesting history.

Please pray for: Paul; Monica; Isla; Keena; Charlotte; Cameron; Deidre; David & Lyn; Andrew; Dave; Janet; Larissa



Happy birthday to Peter Bird & Eve Black on 5th; Bev McDonald on 6th

Wardens -	Phil Goulding	Phone: 9247 4978
	Judith Smith	Phone: 9246 3745
Parish Priest – the Reverend Josie Steytler	Phone: 0421 115 438	

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Welcome to Worship



Pentecost 14

3rd September 2023

We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...

Our Mission is to

- **Know God personally**
- **Love and respect one another deeply**
- **Disciple and serve those around us**

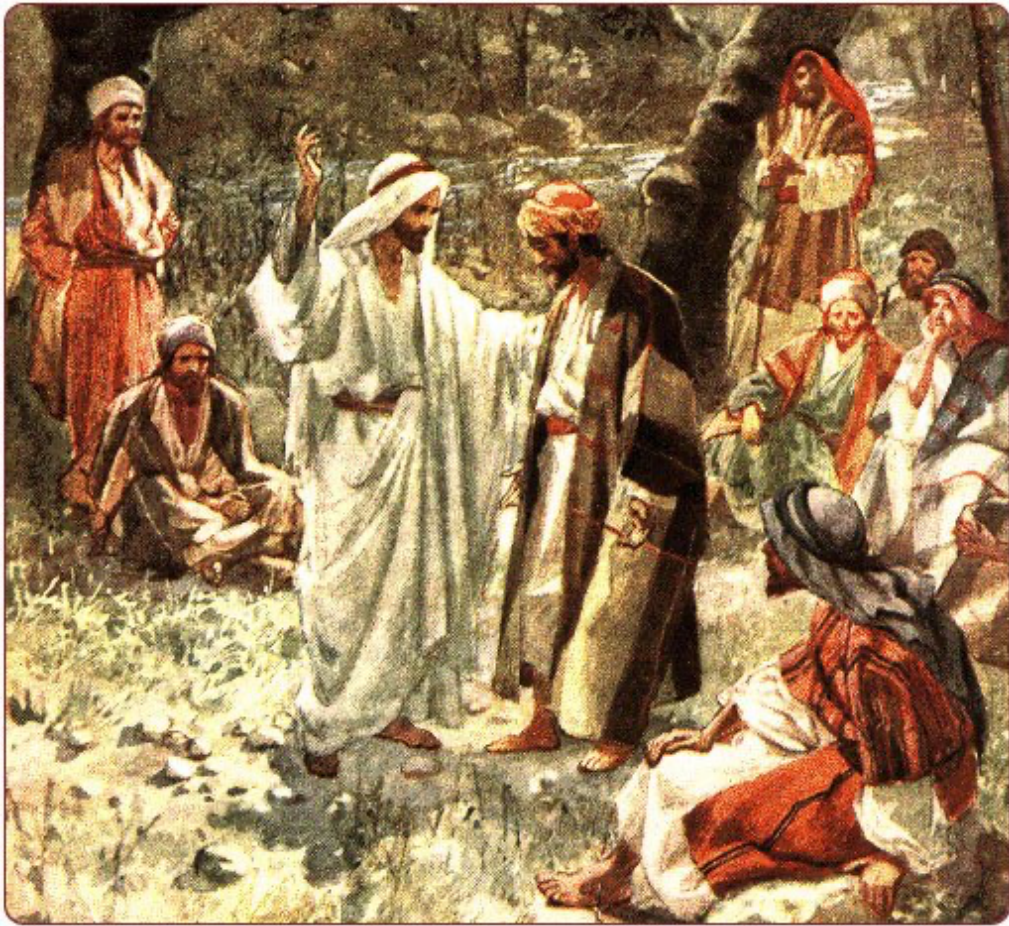
Sentence: If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him.
Matthew 16:24-25

Collect of the Day

O God,
whose Son has shown the way of the cross
to be the way of life:
transform and renew our minds
that we may not be conformed to this world
but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living
sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Saviour;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Today's readings:
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Next Week:
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:1-10
Matthew 18:10-20



Pentecost 14 – Matthew 16:21-28

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Peter’s confession of faith (last Sunday’s Gospel) begins a new phase of Matthew’s Gospel. As he makes his way to Jerusalem, Jesus’ teachings will now be addressed primarily to his disciples on the events and work that awaits them in Jerusalem – and beyond.

The hostility between Jesus and the leaders of Judaism is about to reach the crisis stage. In today’s Gospel, Jesus proclaims

unambiguously that his mission as the Messiah includes suffering and death. Peter is sharply rebuked by Jesus for his seemingly innocent remark that Jesus should be spared such a fate, but Jesus sees Peter’s refusal to accept such a possibility as a “satanic” attempt to deflect the Messiah from his mission of redemption. To avoid suffering and hardship in order to opt for the easy and safe course is purely human thinking, an obstacle to experiencing the life of the Spirit. Authentic discipleship involves taking on the cross and “denying oneself” – disowning ourselves as the centre of our existence and realizing that God is the object and purpose of our lives.

Jesus asks his disciples to detach from the ephemeral and shallow in order to attach to the lasting, fulfilling things of God: compassion, reconciliation, justice.

The cross that Jesus asks his followers to take up is not a cross that cedes to crucifixion but a cross that is the means to resurrection. In embracing Jesus’ spirit of humble servanthood and compassion, we take up his cross, not out of a sense of self-loathing or pessimism, but out of a sense of conviction and hope that the demands of the cross will result in the life and love of the Easter promise.

It’s a natural and understandable reaction to avoid whatever is unpleasant, uncomfortable, stressful, hurtful. In today’s Gospel, Peter simply wants to protect Jesus from the suffering that awaits — but Jesus sharply rebukes Peter for trying to diminish or skirt the cross because it is difficult. To take up one’s cross is not a “battle” of good over evil but a means for bringing God’s promise of resurrection into our lives and the loves of those we love.

Christ urges us to “lose” that part of our life that is centred in ephemeral, perishable things so that we may “gain” lives grounded in the love of God: to lose our anger, our disappointment, our need for control in order to find meaning and purpose in doing for others and contributing to the common good. In “dying” to ourselves we become something greater; in letting go of the temporary and the fleeting we become richer; in the suffering we endure we become stronger, in the failures we experience we become wiser.